



SOCIETY HILL

# Reporter

July/August 2026

The Newsletter  
of the Society Hill  
Civic Association

[www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org)

## The Declaration's Journey – Is this Your Story?

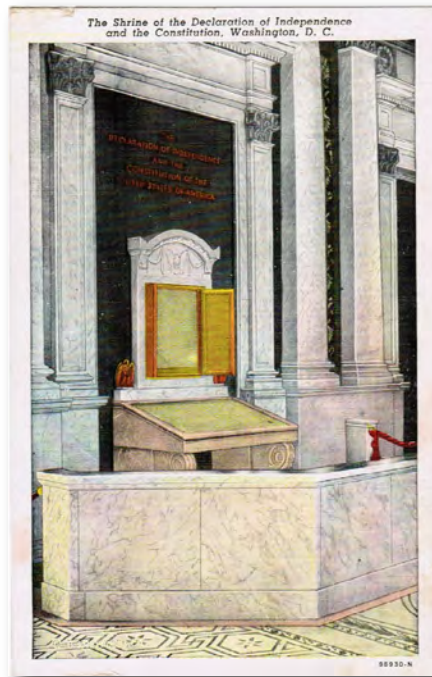
BY AL CAVALARI

### *Not-to-be-missed America 250 Special Exhibit*

**WHAT GOOD FORTUNE!** Two jewels among our neighborhood's cultural institutions each have once-in-a-lifetime special exhibits in place. You will be doing yourself a disservice if you miss them. To mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Museum of the American Revolution (MoAR) and the American Philosophical Society (APS), founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin, have created extraordinary experiences for you. You have the good fortune to live steps away from these places that people from around the world travel here to see. This article will focus on MoAR's exhibit on the Declaration. The APS exhibit will be in the next issue.

Be sure to take your kids. My own love of American Revolutionary War history began in elementary school with the iconic image of the engrossed Declaration now in the National Archives. Its beautiful handwritten text and wonderfully unique signatures were captivating, even though I had little understanding of what it really was. I just knew it was something good and we celebrated it with a fun holiday. Many people are not aware that the Declaration has existed in many different versions and has manifested itself in many different ways around the world. The scope of these exhibitions will astound you.

The very title of MoAR's exhibit, *The Declaration's Journey*, announces a road trip. You embark on a journey around the world, across time, and through the growth of human thought inspired by the document. The stories of people everywhere unfold as they make the Declaration their own. People



**Shrine of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in the Library of Congress 1941, by Curt Teich Co. American Art series.**

**On December 13, 1952, the documents were transferred to their current home in the National Archives in a Marine Corps armored personnel carrier guarded by tanks, troops with submachine guns, 12 armed forces special police, two Army bands and a motorcycle brigade.**

are changed by it, and through them its meaning has changed over the centuries. Consider a rare pamphlet MoAR has on display: *Letters From a Man of Colour* written by James Forten in 1813.

In a recent Independence Hall tour, the park ranger told the story of James Forten, a black man born a free person in Philadelphia. He was in the large crowd in the back of Independence Hall as a nine-year-old child, when on July 8,

1776, Americans heard the words of the Declaration publicly read for the first time. The ranger mused that this experience inspired Forten to realize that *he* could be part of the Declaration's story; the Declaration's revolutionary words about all men being created equal *could be his story too*. Was it on his mind when at age 14 he enlisted to go to war on a privateer ship? On his second voyage his ship was captured and its crew became prisoners. James became playmates with the son of the captain who offered to take James to England with him where he would be educated and cared for. James declined the offer so as not to abandon his shipmates, which landed him in a terrible prison ship in New York harbor. There he again turned down a chance to be free when he gave up his spot to a fellow prisoner in a plan to be smuggled ashore in the trunk of an officer about to be exchanged.

James was exchanged in his own right after seven months. Emaciated and barefoot, he walked to Trenton, New Jersey, where locals gave him shoes and food. Eventually he made his way home to Philadelphia. He took a job with Robert Bridges, a sail maker, worked his way up, and eventually was able to buy the business. It made him a wealthy philanthropist. The Declaration's story shaped him further as he dedicated the rest of his life to ending slavery through his writings and other abolitionist work.

The Declaration's story had become his own. It inspired him when he wrote *Letters From a Man of Colour*, a pamphlet of three essays, in response to a proposed bill in the Pennsylvania state legislature  
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Find past issues dating back to 1950 at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://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](mailto: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 BOB KRAMER

## A Sampling of SHCA Services

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer. It is a pleasure to be able to participate in outdoor activities. Society Hill Civic Association (SHCA) has completed its director and officer elections for fiscal year June 1, 2026, to May 31, 2027. Volunteerism makes SHCA possible. Without volunteers nothing could be accomplished. Thank you to all incoming directors and officers. Any member of SHCA can join any committee. If you are interested in serving on a committee or starting a new initiative, please contact me at [president@societyhillcivic.org](mailto:president@societyhillcivic.org). All are welcome to help the community.

SHCA is continuing to provide weekly street cleaning for the Society Hill area. For July and August, the street cleaning will be increased from once a week on Monday to twice a week on Friday and Monday. The Center City District provides this service at the cost to SHCA of \$709 per cleaning day. The **extra street cleaning day** has been added with the expectation that the 250-year celebrations and FIFA world cup soccer matches may bring extra traffic to our neighborhood. We were fortunate to have an anonymous benefactor donate the cost of the July Friday street cleaning, with the understanding that SHCA would add a Friday street cleaning during July and August.

SHCA's Street Safety and Accessibility Committee (SSAC) is in contact with Councilmember Mark Squilla's office regarding the **delineator posts** installed along the new 3rd Street bicycle lane. To the surprise of the community, delineators were installed along the residential portion of 3rd Street in Society Hill. The information released by OTIS prior to establishing the bike lanes never mentioned the delineator installations. SSAC is evaluating the next steps that should be taken.

SHCA made a **\$3,500 donation to the Delancey Square Town Watch** to help fund the summer unarmed security patrols in a portion of the neighborhood, plus Foglietta Plaza and the SHCA parking lot. SHCA's Board formed a Grant Committee which is developing procedures

for providing funds for worthy community projects and organizations.

The Department of Planning and Development proposed updates to the zoning and allowed uses along **South Street** from Front to 11th Streets (remapping). A meeting has been arranged with South Street Headhouse District and neighboring Registered Community Organizations (RCO), such as Queen Village Neighbors Association (QVNA), Washington Square West Civic Association (WWCA), Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA), to explore a unified position on the remapping proposal. We've been advised that this fall the Department will arrange meetings where the community will be presented with the remapping plan. On September 15, 2025, SHCA held a community meeting where an earlier version of the remapping plan was reviewed. (See page 5.)

The RCOs adjacent to South Street, including SHCA, the Streets Department and Councilman Squilla met to review the issuance of **Festival Street Closure Permits** to businesses on South Street. The RCOs requested the meeting due to the closure of the 300 block of South Street for Taste Taco's promotional event on May 5, 2026. The event disrupted the residential community on and surrounding South Street. At the meeting, a discussion of how to increase the community's use of South Street occurred. It was decided that the RCOs would explore closing two blocks of South Street to traffic on Friday and Saturday evenings from July 31 to August 15. The purpose of the street closure is to provide programming that will attract the nearby residential community. The initiative is being explored with the support of Councilman Squilla, and more details will be provided in the Spotlight as soon as available.

The South Street adjacent RCOs and Delancey Square Town Watch are continuing to advocate for safety and development improvements to South Street. The Police Department has agreed to provide additional staffing for the South

Street mini police station on a flex basis during the summer months. Methods to close South Street to vehicles later at night on weekends are being explored.

The SHCA **Foglietta Plaza Committee** has been working with Councilmember Squilla's office to repair and improve the lighting at Foglietta Plaza. The city's Capital Program Office has recently accepted responsibility for these improvements, and we have just learned that they are not likely to take place until 2027, due to planning and budget constraints. SHCA will continue to press for the improvements which are needed for safety. In the meantime, the Interstate Land Management Corporation, which has maintenance responsibilities at the park, has made improvements by replacing dead trees and commencing an ongoing program to improve plant beds.

On June 3, 2026, the SHCA participated in the City Council Rules Committee meeting, successfully advocating against the Historic Preservation bill which would have weakened the existing **Historic Preservation** ordinance. The Preservation Alliance and the Crosstown Coalition also advocated against the bill, as well as 25 other Philadelphia communities. The Rules Committee withdrew the bill, saying it would consider it again in the fall.

By the time this issue of the *Reporter* has been published, the SHCA **Garden Tour** organized by Martha Levine and Linda Skale will have taken place. I hope that all who attended the Garden Tour celebrated the gardens made available by the generous owners of the properties.

**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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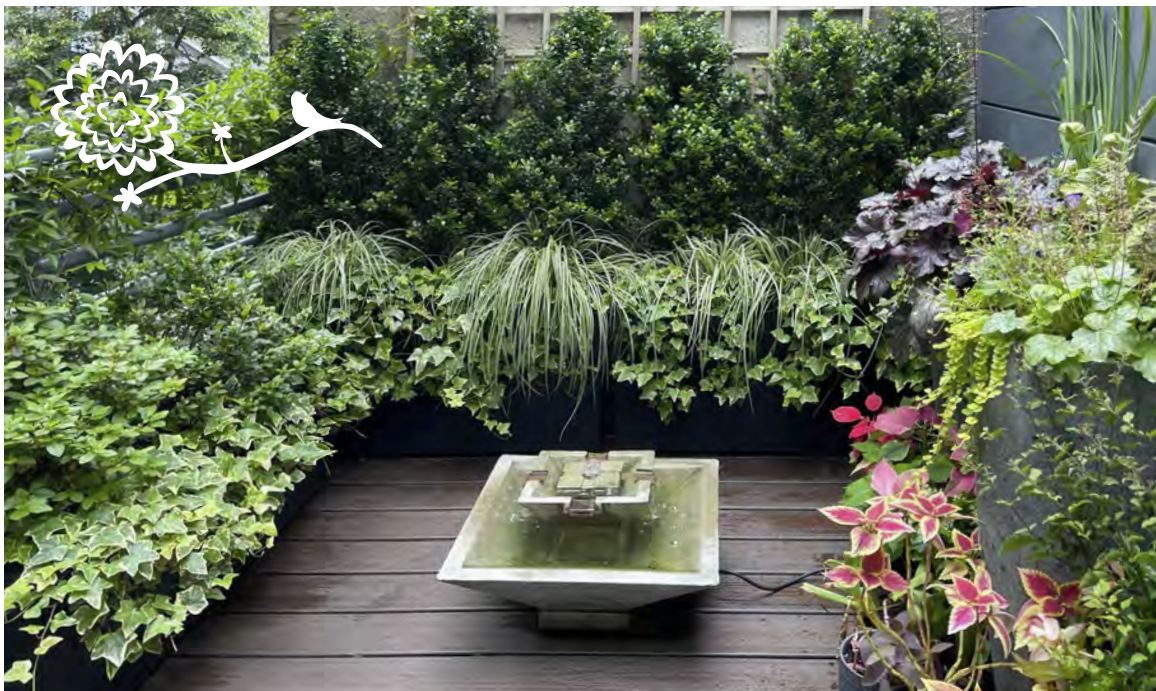


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**PROPOSED CHANGES TO SOUTH STREET ZONING**


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BY MARY PURCELL

## The View from Society Hill

**A**h, the charms and challenges of South Street... Seeking more of the former and less of the latter, SHCA has been collaborating with neighboring communities of Queen Village, Washington Square West, Bella Vista, and South Street Headhouse District, along with Delancey Square Town Watch and the Philadelphia Police.

See President Kramer's report on page 3 for initiatives underway to address safety and other issues on the street, including actions following the disturbances on Cinco de Mayo.

This article is focused on one of the items President Kramer mentioned, the City Planning Department's proposal on zoning changes or "remapping" on South Street. As he indicates, Planning has stated they will hold community meetings this coming fall.

Below we'll also recap the September 2025 feedback from the Society Hill community.

### Planning Department Goals and Proposals

The Planning Department's stated goals include addressing the high number of vacant storefronts as well as preserving the eclectic history of South Street. To meet these goals, after initially proposing "upzoning" South Street from Front to 11th Streets to a zoning classification of CMX-3 (a commercial mixed use classification which will allow for increased building height), they are now proposing this upzoning for a specific list of properties.

They also propose:

- Expanding allowed uses to include body art, fortune telling, and take-out only food sales
- Requiring ground floor commercial use for new construction
- Removal of any minimum parking requirement for new residential development

### The community said:

In our September 17, 2025 community meeting, SHCA ZHP Chair and current First Vice President Paul Boni presented the proposal and facilitated the community discussion.

Community members offered quite a few constructive comments on steps to improve South Street as a viable, safe, attractive, and thriving corridor. There was no pushback on the goals of maintaining the historical street vibe and addressing vacant storefronts, but

**community members have an additional goal: for South Street to be safe and inviting for both community members and visitors.**

Most community members expressed concern about expanding the allowed uses of properties on South Street and wanted to understand better the implications of the proposed upzoning.

### The community wants:

- Safety and less crime, noise, and vehicle traffic
- Retail shops and restaurants that attract Society Hill residents
- South Street to be an asset for Society Hill, attracting foot traffic throughout the week, not just weekends
- Ways to incentivize absentee landlords to maintain property
- Study of community goals and existing issues, possibly a master plan, before proceeding to changes
- Signage controls as to size, materials, lighting, and placement

### The community does not want:

- Increased residential units with no parking
- Smoke shops
- Vehicle refueling/gas/diesel stations
- Entertainment and Assembly
- Fortune telling
- Signage above the 2nd floor or that detracts from the pedestrian experience

### We want to understand:

- What would be the impacts of the proposed upzoning to CMX-3?
- Why is this upzoning needed?  
How does this work in other nearby areas?  
Are there lessons to be learned?
- What would be the impact of increasing the height limit to 65 feet? There is concern about maintaining scale with neighboring properties.
- Do we want more body art/tattoo shops?

Stay tuned... we'll keep the community posted on developments this fall.

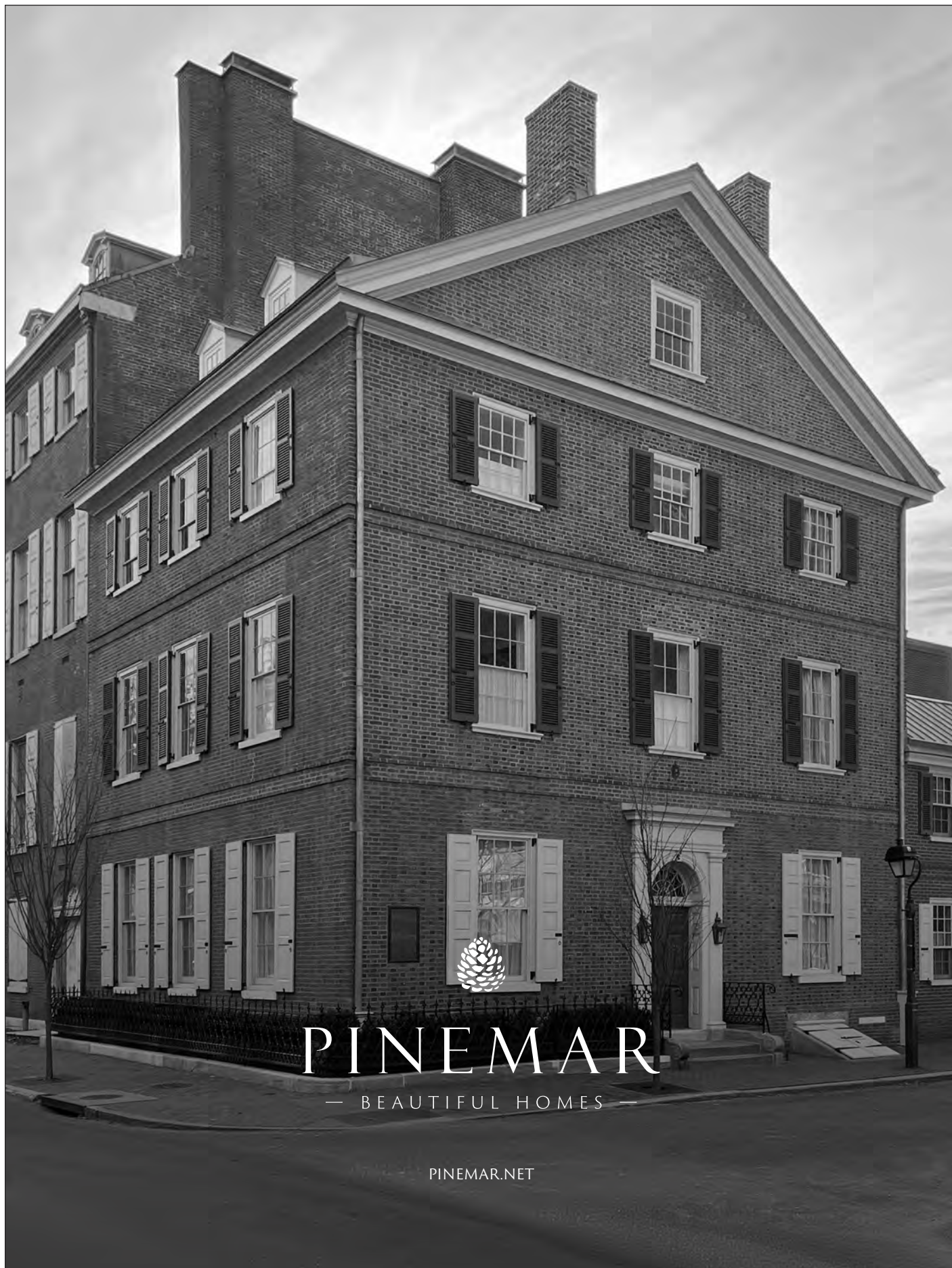
**Mary Purcell** is Secretary of SHCA, Chair of the I-95 Task Force, and Foglietta Plaza - Committee Chair.



*Community members have an additional goal: Make South Street safe and inviting for community members as well as visitors.*



**The community does not want smoke shops.**



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## OPINION: STREET SAFETY

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

## What Works That's Fair to Everyone

Street safety, specifically relating to bike lanes, has been an ongoing topic of conversation in Society Hill. The discourse has been civil at best, hostile at worst. Sadly, many people advocate for what *they* want, and **only** what they want. The one thing that's been missing throughout this whole process is **compromise**. I propose that each group — pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers and the city — examine what they can do to make the streets safer for everyone.

**Everyone Supports Safety**

No one wants to see anyone injured or worse. We live on narrow streets that weren't designed for today's traffic volume, and we all need to share that limited space. The fatal bicycle accidents in our city (none of which occurred in Society Hill) were all unspeakable tragedies. But rather than resort to knee jerk fixes, let's look at what would actually have protected those individuals. Accidents typically occur for one of three reasons: reckless driving, distraction, or poor visibility.

**Drivers**

At an average weight of two tons, **motor vehicles bear the onus of responsibility**. Slow down! The speed limit is 25 mph. If you want to make the lights, they're timed for 20 mph. **Pay attention and stay off the phone. A new state law took effect June 5th that prohibits use of hand-held devices, even while stopped at lights.** Every preschooler knows that "Red means stop." **Cars must stop for red lights** instead of running them with impunity. Safely making a turn requires not only checking your mirror, but actually looking over your shoulder for anyone in your blind spot. **Yield to pedestrians, and don't gridlock intersections or block crosswalks.**

**Bicyclists**

Cyclists are also required to abide by the rules of the road, although many seem to think otherwise. Any trauma surgeon will tell you that **wearing a helmet** is essential, yet many ride without one. How about wearing **reflective vests**, much like road workers, to make oneself more visible to cars? **Stay off the sidewalks.** Make sure you're **illuminated after dark**. It's heart-stopping for a driver to suddenly come upon a bicyclist they couldn't see. Ride within designated bike or traffic lanes only. Swerving in and out between lanes of cars is reckless. Cyclists also need to stop for red lights and yield to pedestrians.

**Pedestrians**

Yes, walkers bear some responsibility too.

**Look both ways before crossing the street.**

**Get off your phone while crossing the street.**

**Make sure vehicles are stopped before stepping out.** Making eye contact with drivers is always a good idea.

**Philadelphia**

The city needs to increase enforcement of existing traffic laws. Lack of manpower is always to blame. How about **a civilian traffic enforcement crew with handheld red-light cameras?** Or periodic **traffic stings** at problematic intersections?

Why not **paint the bike lanes bright green throughout the city as a reminder for cars?**

Daylighting of intersections can help slow down all traffic where most accidents actually occur.

**Final Thoughts**

I live on a busy bike lane street. I've walked, biked, and driven through our area, so I really can appreciate the issue from all sides. But we need to be realistic.

The bike lane barriers being advocated for (four-inch freestanding curbs) would **not** have prevented the recent fatalities in our city. A drunk and speeding driver would have launched right over them, and the barriers wouldn't continue into intersections where most accidents occur. Painting, rumble strips, and/or corner barriers could be less expensive and more effective. They'd also be less of an obstacle for emergency vehicles, snowplows, and street cleaning.

Making modest concessions for residents, delivery drivers, and ride share cars to pull into the bike lane briefly to load and unload isn't dangerous. Inconvenient maybe, but not dangerous. It just means cyclists would have to stop, wait for cars to pass, and then go around. Autos do it every day around trash trucks and vehicles parking. Maybe homeowners could be provided with a "resident sticker" for their car to indicate they had permission to stop. No one group is owed unimpeded access across the city.

Most of all, everyone needs to bend a little. Yield to others, be civil, and give everyone the opportunity to traverse our city safely. We can all give a little to get a little.

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



*What can you do to make the streets safer for everyone?*



**Emergency vehicles should be allowed to pull into the bike lane briefly to load and unload patients and not be blocked by barriers.**

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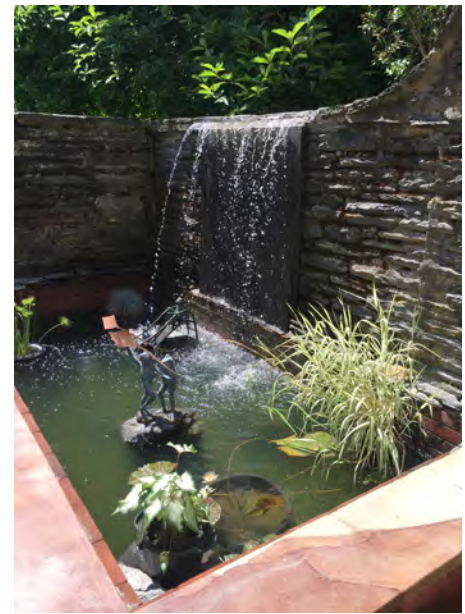
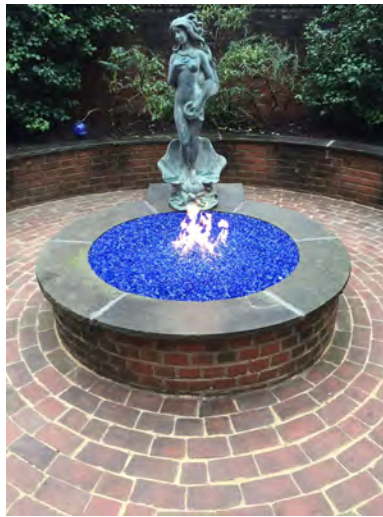
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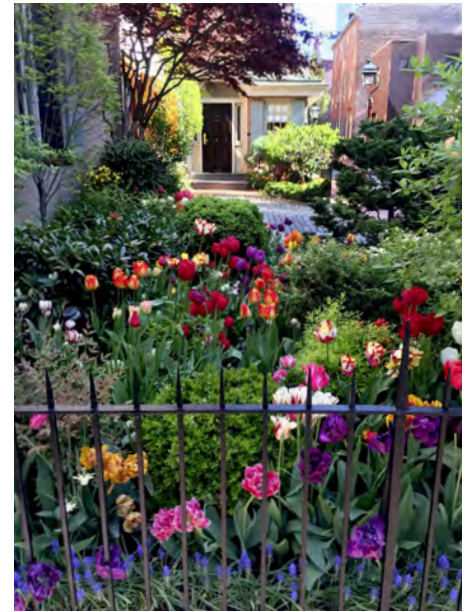
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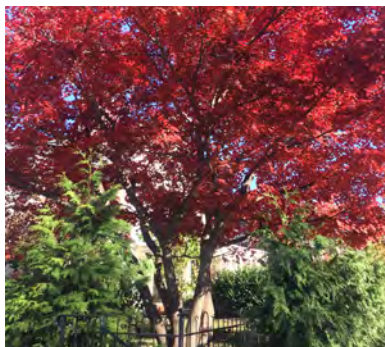
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## INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL TRUST

BY JONATHAN BURTON

## A Partnership in Bloom at Washington Square

Washington Square is one of Philadelphia's most treasured open green spaces, and its beauty today is no accident. It is the result of a strong and thoughtful partnership between Independence National Historical Park, the dedicated volunteers of the Washington Square Committee, SHCA, and now Independence Historical Trust.

Washington Square is managed by the National Park Service, whose landscape architect, head gardener, and entire grounds crew bring a level of expertise that ensures every detail is handled with care. Their work follows the Park's landscape master plan, a critical framework that guides planting, preservation, and long-term improvements, ensuring that Washington Square evolves in a way that respects both its history and its future.

Complementing that stewardship, the Trust now serves as the philanthropic partner benefiting Washington Square. As the official nonprofit partner to the Park, the Trust raises and directs private funding to enhance and maintain these national park spaces and now adds Washington Square to its growing list of priority projects. This role allows private support to directly impact the Square while meeting federal standards. Please visit the new website that is still a work in progress, <https://inht.org/washingtonsquare>.

On the ground, the Washington Square Committee and its bed mentors bring the space to life, tending all 15 garden beds with care, expertise, and pride. The legacy was built by co-chairs Sherley Young and Fred Manfred. Sherley Young, who remains actively involved, has moved herself up to chair emerita, and handed over her co-chair to Lisa Flynn alongside Fred Manfred. Together, they work in close coordination with the Park, and the Trust, ensuring both continuity and forward momentum.

Lisa Flynn summed it up well: "Our volunteers care deeply about Washington Square. Each garden bed reflects hours of dedication, knowledge, and pride. Working alongside the Independence Historical Trust and the National Park Service allows us to ensure that this space continues to thrive for everyone who visits."

What makes this partnership especially effective is how it brings these pieces together. The Trust's ability to hire contractors to work on federally managed land helps turn private philanthropy into real, visible improvements, handling the logistics, oversight, contracts, and insurance required to get work done in collaboration with the Park.

We are also grateful to the many individuals and families who have supported the beautification of Washington Square over the years. Their generosity has helped sustain, beautify, and elevate this historic space, and their continued support, especially through monthly and restricted gifts, will ensure it thrives for generations to come.

This is what partnership looks like when it works, and Washington Square and Society Hill are better for it.

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



One of the Square's 15 flower beds

*Each garden bed reflects our volunteers' deep care and hours of dedication, knowledge, and pride.*

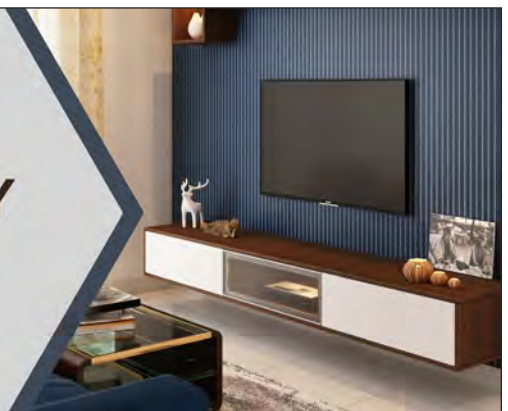


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## HEAD HOUSE &amp; NEW MARKET CONSERVANCY

BY SUSAN BURT COLLINS

## Head House Restoration Nearly Complete

By the time you read this, the restoration of the iconic landmark of Society Hill, the Head House and Shambles, will be almost complete. No longer deteriorating and begging for repair, the white cupola proudly tops the 1804 structure, the blue and gold clock faces will tell time, and possibly, the old bell will ring again. (Shambles 1745 and Head House 1804)

In 2023 SHCA began the effort to save this building, funding \$25,000 for an assessment of the buildings by John Milner Architects. After many talks with Councilmember Squilla and South Street representatives, a way forward was determined. The New Market Head House Conservancy was created to guide the restoration and reimagining of the Head House and Shambles. At the beginning, fundraising for the project was through the Society Hill Preservation Foundation. This initial effort raised enough to cover the clock repair and construction documents from Milner Architects to guide the renovation. With a realistic sense of the costs and the community's clear support for the project, Councilman Squilla stepped in with 1.5 million dollars of city funding for the restoration, overseen by the new Conservancy.

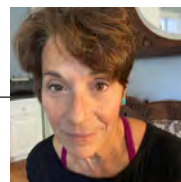
After a competitive bidding process, W.S. Cumby was selected as the most experienced and affordable choice to do the work, with Milner Architects overseeing the whole process. The headhouse roof and molding are being repaired, brick repointed, and windows restored to their original splendor and clarity, while treasures like the copper ball atop the cupola are preserved, and the clockworks, clock face, and dials are being restored.

Progress has been remarkable but work on a structure that has stood for more than two centuries, with long periods of neglect, inevitably reveals unexpected conditions, not visible until restoration begins. The picture below is an example of the level of decay uncovered. Another example was the discovery of a buried vault that required the rerouting of plumbing before a handicapped-accessible bathroom on the ground floor could be created.

All the dollars raised are cautiously being used to fix problems and make sure the work being done lasts. No band-aids, no temporary fixes. So not everything that was hoped for can be done immediately. The brick columns in the Shambles still need repointing and the slate roof still needs more repairs. Lighting of the façade might require more resources. The first big push is making the sidewalks on either side of the Shambles more user friendly by replacing the cobblestones (put there in the 1960s) with bricks. The Conservancy is seeking grant dollars for this part of the project. If you are interested in continuing to support this work, see the NMHHC website for more information: [www.headhousesquare.org](http://www.headhousesquare.org).

Ultimately, this site is more than a building. It has been and continues to be a part of the fabric of life in Society Hill. It is the hope and intention to make it more than an occasional flea market or the Sunday Farmer's Market, but a regular place for gathering, celebrating, and enjoying life.

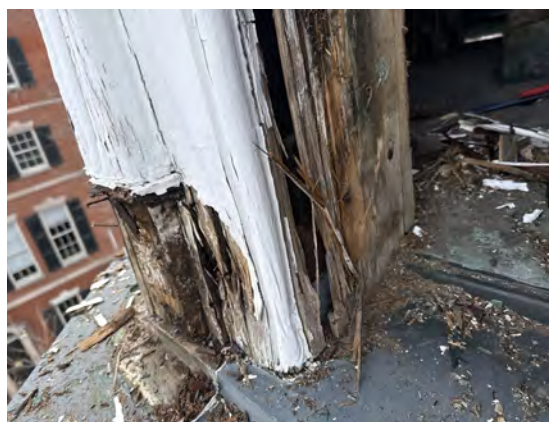
**Susan Burt Collins** is Vice President of the New Market & Head House Conservancy.



**Top of the cupola with a copper ball atop**



**Finished gold hand for the clock**



**Extensive damage to the cupola**



**Engraving "New Market Clock Erected May 1819"**

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## TREE TENDERS UPDATE

BY CLAUDIA CARABELLI

# Helping Our Trees Survive the Heat

Our intrepid Tree Tenders volunteers continue to maintain our lush, green neighborhood with semiannual street tree plantings compliments of The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. This past April saw four new saplings make their homes along the streets of Society Hill. Their survival now depends on frequent watering, nourishing mulch, avoiding delivery trucks, and a little luck. As you can see from the planting photo to the right, some of our youngest neighbors joined in to help.

With summer in full swing, we need to keep in mind what's required to care for our trees. Much like us, they can be adversely affected by the heat. A good soaking twice a week will give the younger trees (planted during the last two years) their best chance at survival. More is recommended if we have any prolonged dry spells. A good quality licorice root mulch can provide much needed nutrients. Be sure to follow the 3-3-3 rule

when applying mulch: 3 inches thick, 3 inches away from the trunk, and 3 feet wide. Keeping the tree pit weeded and free of trash, while not necessary for growth, will make everything look a lot nicer. The tree may not thank you, but your neighbors will.

Some of the larger trees in Society Hill are quite old at this point and may succumb to disease. Replacing any that come down keeps the growth cycle going continuously. Do you have an empty street tree pit, a dead tree, or a stump? It's never too early to plan to replant. Applications for our Fall 2026 trees have already been submitted, but you can always apply for a Spring 2027 one at [www.phsonline.org](http://www.phsonline.org). Go to For Neighborhoods, Tree Programs, Get a Tree, Step 5 Street Tree Application. Questions? Need help? You can reach me at [ccarabelli@comcast.net](mailto:ccarabelli@comcast.net).

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



**This past April, four new saplings made their homes along the streets of Society Hill.**



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- ✓ Martin Lynch PD-2047A



## KEEPING POSTED

continued from page 1

*The Declaration's story is universal, and it takes the whole world to tell it.*



**James Forten's publication "Letters From a Man of Colour" helped defeat a measure that would have required all black people in Pennsylvania to register, or be forced into indentured servitude for seven years.**

that would make life even more difficult for black people who dared to live in the state. It would require them all to register. Failure to do so or to present their registration on demand would be penalized by being sold into indentured servitude. Visitors would need to register within 24 hours or face periods of forced labor for seven years. James' publication helped defeat the measure. Guess what story inspired it? Here is how the first essay begins:

"WE hold this truth to be self-evident, that GOD created all men equal and is one of the most prominent features in the Declaration of Independence, and in that glorious fabric of collected wisdom, our noble Constitution."

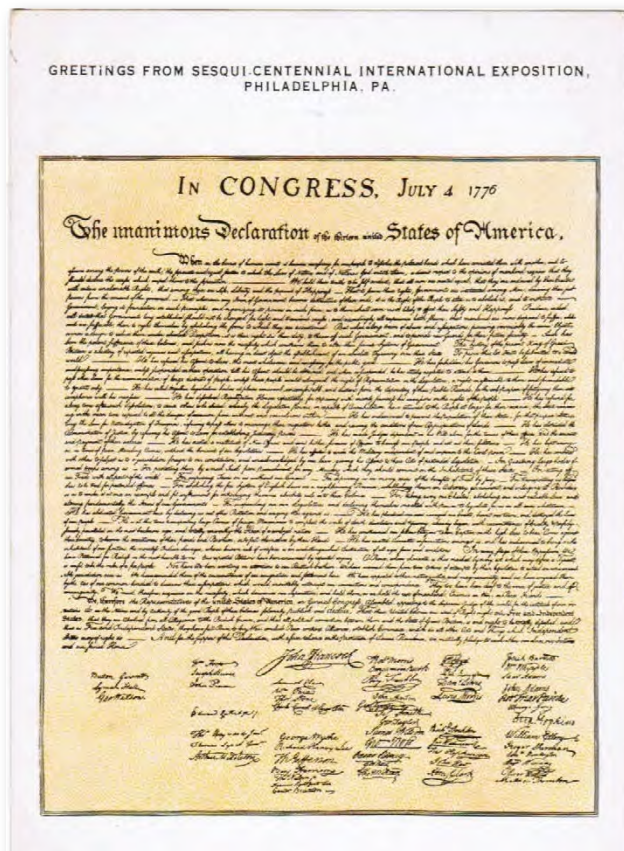
I immediately noticed what a great number of artifacts are on loan from other institutions and individuals so I counted them. There are 83 loans

from the U.S., U.K., France, Mexico, Chile and Ireland. The Declaration's story is universal, and it takes the whole world to tell it, with a printing press from Chile, a Civil War Confederate uniform from Jefferson's grandson George Wythe Randolph, a Rainbow flag inspired by Harvey Milk, the bench from Martin Luther King's jail cell, from which he wrote the "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Our Declaration gave birth to over a hundred others. You'll see declarations from Haiti, France, Chile, Mexico, Texas, South Carolina, and the Cherokee Nation, and then there's the Declaration of Sentiments in which women rephrased the language to include themselves. The list goes on.

Most people are only aware of the ceremonial signed document which does not appear until

*continued on page 15*

**Vintage post cards honoring the Declaration of Independence.** (Not part of the museum's exhibit.)



**Sesquicentennial Facsimile of the Declaration by John D. Cardinell, Official Publisher for the June 1 to December 1926 event**



**The Declaration of Independence postally used July 3, 1911, by Raphael Tuck & Sons Art Publishers to Their Majesties The King & Queen**

## KEEPING POSTED

continued from page 14

### Is this your story?

August 2, 1776. The original version seen by the public came off the printing press of John Dunlap on the morning of July 5th. Only 26 are known to survive, and you will see one of the most storied copies at the museum. Jonas Phillips was a Jewish immigrant merchant and a founder of Congregation Mikveh Israel. His shop was near Dunlap's printing office on Market Street, which may explain why he wound up with one and thought he'd include it with a letter, written in Yiddish, and an order for ten pounds to be transferred to his mother. He sent everything to an associate in Amsterdam. A British ship captured the shipment, and the documents' presence was unknown until a researcher stumbled upon it in the United Kingdom National Archives in 2026! In an act of British cultural generosity, all three artifacts have come full circle 250 years later to be displayed to you a few blocks away from their origin.

James Forten had nine children, and all seem to have been active in the abolitionist movement. The Declaration's story, James Forten's story, became their story, as well as that of his granddaughter, Charlotte Forten Grimké, an abolitionist and civil rights worker during the Civil War. Holding up a photo of Charlotte, the ranger giving my tour asked, "Is this her story?" Then she asked, "Is this your story?"

Right now, we are all creating the story that the people of the Tricentennial, your grandchildren, will be telling as their history in 2076. What kind of history do you want them to have? Where would we be without people willing to change the world? Those people are you.

© 2026 AI Cavalari

**AI Cavalari** is a certified member of the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides. Write AI at [flagguysdn@aol.com](mailto:flagguysdn@aol.com).



### Vintage post cards honoring the Declaration of Independence. (Not part of the museum's exhibit.)



**Dr. Jayne's Patent Medicines Trade Card "Drafting of the Declaration of Independence circa 1909"**



**Above: Benjamin Franklin signing the Declaration of Independence circa 1906-1920 by Detroit Publishing Co, a premier post card publisher with a unique printing process**

**Left: Reverse of the Sesquicentennial card on the front page by John D. Cardinell, Official Publisher for the June 1 to December 1926 event**



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## ON OUR SHELF

BY IZZY HALLORAN

## Head House Books Selects Your Summer Reading

Searching for a hot summer read? Explore our curated selection of fiction, illustration, and local author favorites!

**Paperback Fiction**

*The Road to Tender Hearts*  
by Annie Hartnett, \$20

Annie Hartnett's third novel, *The Road to Tender Hearts*, is a darkly humorous tale of family, grief, and redemption. In Pondville, Massachusetts, 63-year-old lottery winner P.J. Halliday is living aimlessly, consumed by a reliance on alcohol, his eldest daughter's tragic death, and the subsequent breakdown of his marriage. When P.J. learns that an old flame is single again, he sets out on a road trip from Massachusetts to Arizona, accompanied by a newly inherited family: his recently orphaned grand niece and nephew, Luna and Ollie, his estranged daughter Sophie, and a prophetic cat named Pancakes.

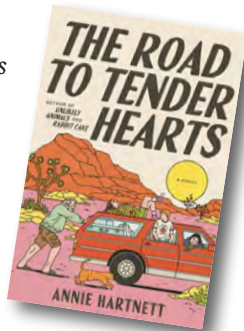
Hartnett crafts each character with meticulous care, switching seamlessly between differing perspectives, from the introspective Pancakes the cat to the stubborn, whip-smart 10-year-old Luna. *The Road to Tender Hearts* is an enthralling multi-generational tale of life's extreme highs and lows, and the people who make it all worth living through.

**International Fiction**

*Sunburn* by Chloe Michelle Howarth, \$19.99

*Sunburn* by Irish author Chloe Michelle Howarth is a touching coming-of-age story between two teenage best friends, Lucy and Susannah. In the small farming town of Crossmore, Ireland, in the 1990s, Lucy Nolan is expected to follow in the footsteps of the Catholic girls before her: find a husband, bear children, and keep house.

But when Lucy develops a forbidden infatuation with her classmate Susannah O'Shea, their connection grows romantic. The secret relationship weighs on both girls, and Lucy must ultimately decide what's more important, the acceptance of her family, friends, and community, or being with the person she truly loves.



Charged with the passion of first love, the angst of the teenage years, and set in a time of religious and cultural expectation, *Sunburn* is a must-read for anyone craving an impactful story.

**Illustrated**

*At the Edge: Curious Creatures of Planet Earth*  
by David Elliott & Clover Robin, \$19.99

*At the Edge: Curious Creatures of Planet Earth* is a marvelous poetic children's book written by David Elliott and illustrated by Clover Robin. In each page of *At the Edge*, Clover Robin crafts a colorful, collaged image of a lesser-known creature. The unique critter, such as a naked mole rat or leafy sea dragon, is accompanied by poet David Elliott's charming, rhyming stanzas. Reading *At the Edge* is an engaging, joyful way for children to learn more about our planet's under-recognized creatures through a lyrical narrative, and experience the wonderful textured media of collage.

**Support Local Authors**

*Insect Safari: Exploring the Wondrous World of Everyday Bugs* by Margie Patlak, \$19.99

In this almanac, science writer Margie Patlak chronicles the incredible vastness of everyday fauna. *Insect Safari* is an exploration of the various creatures Patlak encounters in her daily life as a dual resident of Philadelphia and northeast Maine. Highlighting insect life in our own backyards and community parks, Patlak documents critters such as the underwing moth, black-shouldered drone flower fly, and the swallowtail butterfly. *Insect Safari* can be enjoyed by nature lovers of all ages, and serves as an important reminder to appreciate the complex ecosystems we often take for granted.

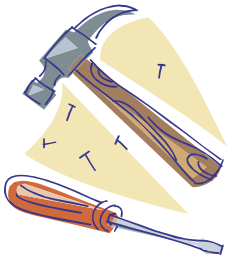


**Izzy Halloran** is a bookseller and Events Coordinator at Head House Books, Society Hill's only local, independently owned bookstore.

## LIST OF CONTRACTORS

BY MARTHA LEVINE

## A “Gold Mine” for Current SHCA Members



Your home repair and remodeling projects get a whole lot easier with access to our popular Society Hill List of Contractors. Over the years, SHCA current members have had access to these wonderful referrals for personal use. It's been dubbed a “gold mine” for its assistance in getting trustworthy and skilled contractors, all highly recommended by our very own neighbors.



If you have a contractor to swear by, let us know, and we may add that person to our list. That is exactly how the list grew over the years, through your recommendations.

The list includes contractors of all kinds: general, plumbers, electricians, HVAC, roofers, painters, and so many more.

The updated list has been emailed to current members, and all new members will get the list automatically.

**Martha Levine**, in addition to chairing the Welcome Gift Bags program, chairs the Block Coordinators, the “Fix the Brix” Program, and curates the List of Contractors.



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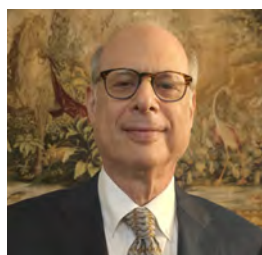
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## 2026-2027 SHCA BOARD MEMBERS

MARY TRACY, NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

## Meet SHCA's Board Members

Thank you to all of the SHCA member households who voted in our recent board election, for the term commencing June 1. Below are bios of the board members you elected in May. Board members previously elected and continuing to serve will be featured in the September Reporter. They are: Tanya Brassie, Denise Colliers, Ramona Johnson, Martha Levine, Joe McLaughlin, Vince Parlegreco, Larry Spector, Mary Tracy, Karen Wildau and Debbie Zak-Cohen. Thank you to all our board members for volunteering to serve our wonderful community.

**Bob Kramer***President*

I was elected president in May 2025 and will be continuing in my second term. I am a retired attorney who has served as a SHCA Board Member since 2015.

I served as chair of the Legal Committee, and the 5th Street

Committee, and have been a member of the Nominations, Finance, ZHP, I-95, Parking, Master Plan and Foglietta Plaza Committees. My specialty when practicing law was mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, security law, and finance. My wife and I have lived in Society Hill since 2012.

**Paul Boni***1st Vice President*

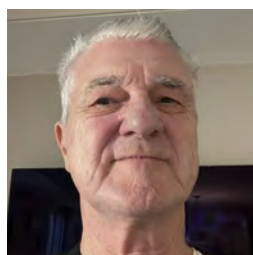
I have lived in Society Hill for more than 30 years, currently in Bells Court (built in 1815) on St. Joseph's Way. I am a zoning and land use attorney representing neighbors and community groups, including a few civic associations

elsewhere in Philadelphia. I am currently a member of the Board and I am the Chair of the SHCA's Zoning & Historic Preservation Committee, which is functioning well and usually by consensus. I am also a member of the Legal Committee and the I-95 Committee. I wish to serve on the Board to try and help achieve consensus on decisions that are in the best interests of our amazing community.

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

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. I presently serve as SHCA second vice president and previously served

as a SE quadrant director. 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.

**Nick DeGregorio***Treasurer*

My wife, Venice, and I have lived in Society Hill for a little over 10 years. I have been on the board of the Society Hill Civic Association for five years in a variety of roles.

I am currently the Treasurer

of both the Association and the Foundation. I am also the president of the condo board at Penn's Landing Square at 2nd and Spruce Streets.

**Mary Purcell***Secretary*

I served as First Vice President of the Society Hill Civic Association this past term, and have been volunteering in the community for over 10 years. Society Hill is a beautiful neighborhood of creative,

caring people, and my purpose on the SHCA board has always been to serve them. I have worked in ways large and small, from clean-up days, the holiday social, chairing the McCall School and Nominations committees, and helping enact our Neighborhood Plan into law. I chair our I-95 and Foglietta Plaza committees and serve on the Finance and Communications committees. Prior to retiring from business, I was a Principal at Mercer and previously a Partner of Towers Perrin leading teams in account, operations and project management.

**Brandon Engelhardt***Director at Large*

I serve on SHCA's Communications Committee. This past year, I led the transition to Google Workspace, giving every board member an official societyhillcivic.org email address and saving SHCA

about \$3,000 per year. I also co-managed the Halloween at Headhouse event, which welcomed several thousand neighbors and brought together 20 community volunteers. My priorities for the neighborhood include strengthening community events, supporting the activation and preservation of Headhouse, modernizing how we communicate and engage with neighbors, improving coordination along South Street, and encouraging more visitation to Society Hill via historic walking tours, our parks, or outdoor dining. I work in technology and hold a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree in Regional and City Planning from Drexel University, with a focus on economic development.

*continued on page 20*

## 2026 - 2027 SHCA BOARD MEMBERS

*continued from page 19***Bernie Gelman** *Director at Large*

I am a retired CPA who graduated Temple University in 1962 with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree. I am also a member of the American Institute of CPAs as well as the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs. My professional experience includes Auditing,

Taxation, Financial Planning as well as Forensic Accounting. Currently I volunteer at the National Constitution Center and previously served as a volunteer for other nonprofits including the Battleship New Jersey. My current residence is Independence Place here in Society Hill, where I have lived continuously since 1978. Currently I serve on the Board of SHCA and previously served on the Board of SHPF as well as their treasurer. I am also currently on SHCA's Membership Committee and previously served on its Nominating Committee.

**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 25 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. Over the last year, I have served as a Director at Large on the SHCA Board, as well as on the Streets Committee. This has given me a good introduction to all of the productive and important things that SHCA does for our community, and also to how much more that needs to be accomplished. I will continue to be a part of the organization and all it has to offer. Occupationally, I am an attorney in the education and tech industries, and I bring years of experience of thoughtful detail-oriented analysis. I am committed to advocate for what matters most to our residents. I believe in being proactive, having open communication and discussing resolutions. We need now more than ever to continue to hear each other and work toward a better way to accomplish our goals in the neighborhood.

**Nancy Lanham** *Director at Large*

I have loved my 35 years living on Spruce Street. My professional experience is mostly in banking. After leaving that field, I consulted with various nonprofit organizations. My final position was as the executive director for a member-association for philanthropies in our region. Though our

neighborhood has changed over my time in Society Hill, the sense of community has continued. In addition to completing my first year on the SHCA Board, I serve on the Powel House committee as the treasurer and I sit on the board of the Interstate Land Management Corp as PA Rep Mary Isaacson's representative. With the extraordinary number of visitors expected this year, I believe that we should improve the safety for those riding/driving on our streets and walking on our sidewalks. Also, it is important for Society Hill to have a voice in city initiatives that affect our neighborhood.

**Brooke Marshall** *Director at Large*

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.

**Nellie Shah** *Director at Large*

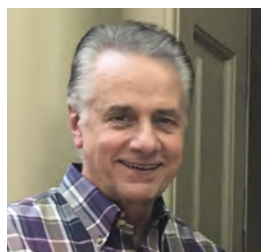
My parents lived in Society Hill for 40 years. Now, as a homeowner myself in this wonderful, vibrant and historic neighborhood, I am committed to preserving its character while ensuring it remains welcoming, safe and thriving for all. I have enjoyed serving on the Communications

and Streets Committees over the last year while serving as a SE quadrant representative, and would like to continue to do so. Professionally, I have a law degree and a strong background in advocacy, community engagement and problem-solving. I founded and ran a marketing and public relations firm that specialized in strategic communications and crisis management. I am confident this is a valuable asset to SHCA, particularly in the areas of community outreach, public relations and marketing initiatives. I enjoy connecting with neighbors, fostering dialogue and working collaboratively to support the success and well-being of our community. I am especially interested in contributing to efforts related to sustainability, public safety, historic preservation and responsible development.

*continued on page 21*

## 2026 - 2027 SHCA BOARD MEMBERS

*continued from page 20*



**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.



**Antonio Atacan** *NW Quadrant*  
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.



**Kathleen McAfee** *NE Quadrant - '27*  
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.

**Patrick Wujcik** *NE Quadrant - '28*

My wife Kathy and I are Philly area natives who settled into Society Hill 10 years ago after decades living abroad. Recently retired after a 25-year career in international development (working to strengthen good governance and the rule of law in emerging democracies), we were drawn back home by Society Hill's beauty, vibrancy, and history. I'm privileged to give back to our community by volunteering with several local groups, and look forward to helping SHCA promote and further enhance our neighborhood's unique charm and spirit.



**Kevin Yoder** *NE Quadrant - '29*  
I hold a B.S. in Architectural Engineering from Penn State University and a B.S. in Architecture from Drexel University. I am a licensed architect in PA, NJ and DE and a member of the American Institute of Architects. As the owner and Design Director of K Yoder Design, a Society Hill-based architecture and interior

design firm, I have had the privilege of working with dozens of Society Hill residents to renovate, restore, and beautify their homes while preserving the character of our neighborhood.

I have been a member of the Society Hill Civic Association for more than 25 years and have been a frequent advertiser in The Society Hill Reporter. Over the years, I have hosted numerous homes on SHCA House Tours and have recommended homes and gardens to be featured. I am also a supporter of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, and have organized and maintained the flower basket program along South 3rd Street between Spruce Street and St. Joseph's Way for more than 20 years, with flowers purchased from and in support of the Hill-Physick House Annual Plant Sale. I am very proud to call Society Hill my home for over 26 years.



**Michael Miele** *SW Quadrant*  
I am a longtime Society Hill resident of 24 years, and have been a steady, hands-on member of SHCA, whether it's rallying neighbors for clean-up days or as an active block captain. My wife and I have raised a family here and we all love living in this neighborhood. I am a software

engineer and technologist with 30+ years in the industry.



**Priscilla Lo** *SE Quadrant*  
When I moved to Philadelphia 23 years ago, I dreamed of living in Society Hill — a neighborhood with historic streets, tree-lined corners, and a sense of community where neighbors truly look out for one another. Today, my family and I are proud to have called it home for the past 16 years — ever since we

moved in during the December 2009 winter storm — and I have spent the last three years serving as a SHCA board member representing Penn's Landing Square. I have chaired the Membership Committee for the past two years and chaired the Nominating Committee last year, and I love finding creative ways to engage neighbors, grow our membership, and strengthen the sense of community throughout Society Hill.

Professionally, I work for a healthcare advertising agency, where I oversee media and audience research — skills I also apply to my volunteer work at the SHCA. I am also an alto in the Mendelssohn Chorus of Philadelphia, where I serve on the board, combining my love of music with community service. With three years of experience on the SHCA board, I am eager to continue working alongside my neighbors to keep Society Hill welcoming, vibrant, and connected.



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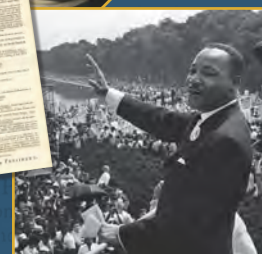
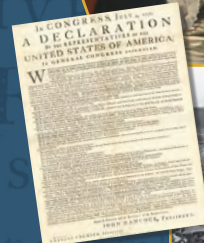
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## OUR SOCIETY HILL BLOG

BY GEORGINE ATACAN

## Best Restaurants in Your Backyard

The cute little hamlet of Society Hill is only about a square mile, yet it managed to have one Michelin Star and one Michelin Recommended restaurant along with several other classics. These best restaurants in your backyard are just another reason Society Hill is the best place to live in Philadelphia!

**Provenance Restaurant**

Provenance Restaurant is one of Philadelphia's most exciting fine dining destinations and proudly holds a Michelin Star, a distinction that recognizes its exceptional culinary artistry and impeccable execution. Set within an intimate historic rowhome in Society Hill, the restaurant offers an elegant prix fixe tasting menu featuring approximately 20 to 25 courses that blend classical French technique with subtle Korean influences. With menu prices beginning around \$225 per person, each dining experience is thoughtfully curated around the seasons, showcasing pristine seafood, premium ingredients, and innovative flavor combinations.

408 S. 2nd Street, 445-223-8333

**Zahav**

Zahav offers a prix fixe menu, currently priced at approximately \$90 per person, allowing guests to experience a thoughtfully curated progression of seasonal dishes that showcase the bold flavors and traditions of Israeli cooking. From its legendary hummus and laffa to expertly prepared meats, seafood, and vegetables, every course reflects the restaurant's commitment to exceptional hospitality and culinary excellence. Zahav has become one of Philadelphia's most celebrated restaurants.

237 St. James Place, 215-625-8800

**Positano Coast**

Positano Coast captures the charm and elegance of Southern Italy with a stylish atmosphere that feels worlds away from the city bustle. Fresh seafood, house-made pastas, and coastal Italian flavors are paired with warm hospitality, creating a dining experience inspired by the Amalfi Coast. Beyond its acclaimed cuisine, Positano Coast is also known for its vibrant bar scene, lively happy hour, and energetic nightlife that continues well after dinner service. The restaurant's chic lounge spaces, creative cocktails, and social atmosphere make it a popular gathering place for both locals and visitors looking to enjoy an evening out. A dynamic nightlife destination.

212 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor, 215-238-0499

**Malbec**

Malbec brings the rich culinary traditions of Argentina to Philadelphia with expertly grilled steaks, authentic empanadas, and a thoughtfully curated wine list. The restaurant combines rustic warmth with attentive service, creating an inviting setting for everything from casual dinners to special celebrations. The Happy Hour is a lively scene where neighbors go to meet. Its welcoming atmosphere and bold flavors have made it a favorite Society Hill destination.

400 S. 2nd Street, 215-515-3899

**Talula's Garden**

Talula's Garden is beloved for its garden-inspired setting, seasonal American cuisine, and commitment to locally sourced ingredients. The leafy courtyard and inviting dining rooms create an atmosphere that feels intimate and distinctly Philadelphia. Thoughtful cooking, attentive service, and a focus on freshness make it one of the city's standout destinations for brunch, lunch, or dinner. It also has a lively bar scene for the late night Washington Square residents.

210 West Washington Square, 215-592-7787

**Frieda**

A beloved neighborhood gathering place, Frieda blends European café culture with Philadelphia charm. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and thoughtfully prepared breakfast and lunch offerings, it has become a favorite spot for residents and visitors alike. Whether meeting friends for coffee, enjoying a leisurely brunch, or simply taking a break from the day, Frieda offers the kind of warmth and familiarity that makes guests instantly feel at home.

320 Walnut Street, 215-600-1291

**P. J. Clarke's At The Curtis**

Located in the historic Curtis Building overlooking Independence Hall, P.J. Clarke's brings a legendary New York dining tradition to Old City. Known for its classic American fare, lively bar scene, fresh seafood, and signature burgers, the restaurant blends timeless charm with contemporary energy. Its spacious dining rooms, outdoor terrace, and welcoming atmosphere make it a favorite destination for business lunches, happy hours, weekend brunches, and evenings out with friends.

601 Walnut Street, 215-999-2000

**Rockwell & Rose**

Adjacent to P.J. Clarke's within the Curtis Building, Rockwell & Rose offers a sophisticated take on the modern American steakhouse. Featuring prime cuts, an impressive raw bar, handcrafted cocktails, and an elegant yet approachable atmosphere, the restaurant was designed to be both refined and welcoming. With its stylish interiors and elevated dining experience, Rockwell & Rose has quickly become a standout destination in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district, for date nights, celebrations, and special occasions.

601 Walnut Street, 215-918-8009

**The Twisted Tail**

Located on Headhouse Square, The Twisted Tail combines Southern-inspired cuisine, live blues music, and one of the city's most impressive whiskey selections. The warm, rustic atmosphere creates the perfect setting for everything from a casual brunch to an evening out with friends. Guests are drawn to its charcoal-grilled specialties, vibrant music scene, and welcoming hospitality, making it a neighborhood favorite and a destination for visitors seeking an authentic Philadelphia dining experience.

509 S. 2nd Street, 215-558-2471

**Pizzeria Stella**

Located in the heart of Headhouse Square, Pizzeria Stella brings the spirit of a traditional Neapolitan pizzeria to Society Hill. Known for its wood-fired pizzas, fresh ingredients, and warm neighborhood atmosphere, the restaurant combines authentic Italian flavors with a lively, welcoming setting. Beyond its celebrated pizzas, guests enjoy house-made pastas, antipasti, and a thoughtfully curated selection of Italian wines and cocktails. Whether gathering with friends on the outdoor patio or enjoying a casual family dinner, Pizzeria Stella has become a beloved Society Hill destination that perfectly complements the neighborhood's vibrant dining scene.

420 S. 2nd Street, 215-320-8000

*Pizzeria*  
**STELLA**

**Georgine Atacan**

has lived and worked in Society Hill since 2002. She is a PA & NJ licensed Psychotherapist and Realtor.





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## SHCA WELCOME GIFT BAGS

BY MARTHA LEVINE, COORDINATOR

## One of a Kind

The **SHCA Welcome Gift Bags Program**, is a one-of-a-kind program that welcomes new first-time owners in Society Hill. We have happily greeted over 1,200 new neighbors in the last 20 plus years. Why do we do this? We do it to welcome new folks to our community and share all of the services SHCA provides. Hopefully you will want to join us as members. Membership helps us provide the many programs we offer. Check out our website for more at [www.societyhillcivic.org](http://www.societyhillcivic.org). We are an RCO, a Registered Community Organization in the City of Philadelphia.

If you are a new owner, we want to hear from you so that we can welcome you in our unique way.

The presentation is a 45-minute visit by appointment at your home. Included in the gift bag are a bottle of wine, a coffee bag, artisan chocolates, important neighborhood information, and many gift cards to area restaurants, entertainment, retail, services, and museums. Please contact me at [marthalev6@gmail.com](mailto:marthalev6@gmail.com).

We welcome new donor **The Bread Room, 834 Chestnut Street**, Ellen Yin's newest epicurean offering, to our list of generous donors. Please help us thank all of our business donors by patronizing their establishments. See list below.

**Martha Levine**, in addition to chairing the Welcome Gift Bags program, chairs the Block Coordinators, the "Fix the Brix" Program, and curates the List of Contractors.



**We welcome new Welcome Gift Bag donor, The Bread Room. Check out their menu at: [www.thebreadroomphl.com](http://www.thebreadroomphl.com)**



**Fabiana & Micaela**



**Teri**



**Betty Jane**



**Susan**



**Laur, Mark, and Evan**

**We ask you to thank our loyal business donors who make this program possible by patronizing their establishments.**

#### *Restaurants*

**Bistro Romano**, 120 Lombard Street  
**Bloomsday Cafe**, 414 S.2nd Street  
**Bridget Foy's**, 200 South Street  
**Cry Baby Pasta**, 627 S. 3rd Street  
**Fork Restaurant**, 306 Market Street  
**FRIEDA** (café), 320 Walnut Street  
**Gnocchi** (Italian), 613 E. Passyunk Avenue  
**High Street Philly**, 101 S. 9th Street  
**Las Buglambillas** (Mexican), 15 S. 3rd Street  
**La Colombe Coffee Roasters** 100 S. 6th Street  
**Madis Coffee Roasters**, 601 Walnut Street  
**Mahalo Hawaiian BBQ**, 117 South Street  
**Malbec Argentine Steakhouse**, 400 S. 2nd Street  
**PJ Clarke's**, 601 Walnut Street  
**Rosy's Taco Bar East**, 624 S. 6th Street  
**Starr Restaurant Group**, [www.starr-restaurants.com](http://www.starr-restaurants.com)  
**The Bread Room**, 834 Chestnut Street  
**The Twisted Tail** (Southern), 509 S. 2nd Street

#### *Entertainment, Retail, Services, and Museums*

**Arden Theatre**, 40 N. 2nd Street  
**Ghost Tour of Philadelphia**, [ghosttour@ghosttour.com](mailto:ghosttour@ghosttour.com)  
**Head House Books**, 619 S. 2nd Street  
**Independence Seaport Museum**, 211 S. Columbus Boulevard  
**Judy Moon & Associates Massage**, 829 Spruce Street, Suite 300  
**Lantern Theatre**, 923 Ludlow Streets  
**Lee's Cleaners**, 241 S. 6th Street  
**Museum of the American Revolution**, 101 S. 3rd Street  
**Naked Chocolate**, [www.nkdchocolate.com](http://www.nkdchocolate.com)  
**National Liberty Museum**, 321 Chestnut Street  
**Paper on Pine** (stationery), 1310 Sansom Street  
**Phila. Chamber Ensemble** (at Old Pine Church), [www.pceconcerts.org](http://www.pceconcerts.org)  
**Physick House & Powel House** (museums), 321 S. 4th Street  
**Pileggi on the Square** (salon), 717 Walnut Street  
**Stump Plants**, 622 S. 9th Street  
**The Athenaeum of Philadelphia**, 219 S. 6th Street  
**Triad Wellness**, 507 S. 4th Street

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

BY PRISCILLA LO

## Summer in Society Hill Starts with Community

**C**ongratulations to Marielle Silber, our winner of the May Membership Drive raffle for a \$100 gift certificate to Frieda. Thank you for supporting SHCA and the work we do in our community!

Summer is a wonderful time to enjoy all that Society Hill has to offer, and to support the community we call home.

Home, family, and community form the foundation of a neighborhood where everyone can thrive. As your neighborhood civic association, strengthening community connections and caring for our shared spaces is central to what we do.

SHCA serves the Society Hill community through beautification, safety efforts, advocacy, and programs that bring neighbors together. None of it happens without the support of our members.

If you are not yet a member, now is a great time to join. Membership helps sustain the programs and services that enhance our neighborhood and ensures the SHCA remains a strong voice for Society Hill.

## 3 Easy Ways to Join or Renew Today

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



1. Open your phone's camera.
2. Point at the QR code.
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](http://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

**Join or renew today at**  
**[www.societyhillcivic.org/join](http://www.societyhillcivic.org/join)**

**Priscilla Lo**, an advertising executive, has lived in Society Hill with her family for 17 years. She chairs the SHCA Membership Committee.



*Society Hill*

**CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

## 2026 Membership Form

We encourage everyone to join online by going to [www.societyhillcivic.org/join](http://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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- ☐ \$ 50 Basic Household Membership
- ☐ \$ 40 Senior/Student/Single
- ☐ \$ 150 Georgian Grantor
- ☐ \$ 300 Jefferson Benefactor
- ☐ \$ 500 Washington Benefactor
- ☐ \$1,000 Benjamin Franklin Benefactor

**Business Memberships**

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- ☐ \$60 Institutions – fewer than 5 employees

Total Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Donations to Society Hill Preservation Foundation**

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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\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Starr Garden Playground Renovation

Total Donations \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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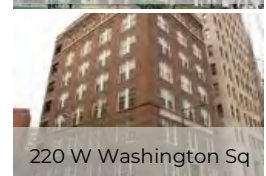
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