

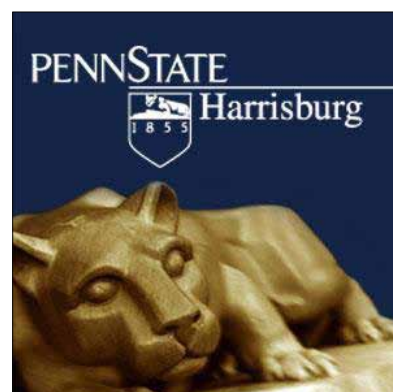
# THE BURG



# THE BURG

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COVER ART BY: KRISTEN FAVA  
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

How do you celebrate Christmas?

Does your holiday follow the American tradition of trees, gifts, parties and hall-decking? Or perhaps it's less conventional—fewer presents, more contemplation.

At TheBurg, we try to offer the less-traveled approach to journalism. So, sure, you'll find a few Santas and reindeer nestled in our paragraphs. But our Christmas stories tend to be more offbeat: holiday daytrips, alternative gift-giving, how to cope if you're in a Christmas funk. We even have an entire story on chestnuts.

Of course, there's always the option to avoid the Christmas hoopla entirely, which, I'll admit, I used to do when I was a single guy.

In that case, you'll want to flip directly to the multitude of stories focused on the community, on local businesses, on dining, arts and culture. I particularly encourage you to spend time with two pieces by our resident writer, Paul Barker.

In his first story, Paul examines how a group of residents came together to put pressure on a local business that they believed was harming their community. The resulting story is a nuanced and complex look at the tough issues and choices we sometimes face in our city.

The second story tells of the centenary of the Bethesda Mission. Paul elevates this "anniversary story" (of which we've written our share this year) to a new level of quality and, well, involvement.

Lastly, I would like to thank you—our readers, advertisers and supporters—for making 2014 the most successful year we've had (by far). When I look back on the past 12 months, I'm profoundly grateful for the time, encouragement and support you've given us.

Happy holidays!

**LAWRANCE BINDA**  
Editor-in-Chief

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—The New York Times

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Going to see the *Nutcracker* is a family tradition! Everything about it is perfect — the dancing is spectacular, the live orchestra is such a treat, and Hershey Theatre is magical. We always feel that Christmas has arrived after seeing this production. —B.







# HOLIDAY WISHES

*Here's what I hope for Harrisburg in 2015.*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

The holidays offer time for reflection and giving thanks. They also are a time for thinking ahead about change and progress in the coming year.

My favorite holiday is Thanksgiving for its low-key, non-commercial nature, Mom's home cooking, football and the promise of a four-day weekend. Since I don't participate in "Black Friday," opting for the couch and/or some walks instead, it is always the low-stress holiday in our home. Of course, I also greatly enjoy Christmas and New Year's for their symbols of birth, re-birth and the promise of a brighter future for those who choose to believe.

Whereas last year I took stock of all the people and things I am thankful for in Harrisburg (December 2013, p. 7), this year I'm putting together my wish list for 2015. Thus, in the American spirit of renewal and on the premise that things that cannot be imagined cannot be achieved, here are some things, both big and small, I'd like to see happen in the coming year.

- Our new Gov. Tom Wolf, new Senate Majority Leader Corman and House leaders Turzai and Smith work together, across the aisle, to move our state and city forward on such things as education funding formulas, pension reform, liquor privatization, extraction taxes and so forth.
- N. Second Street, between Forster and Division streets, is finally restored to two-way traffic and an important neighborhood is reclaimed for the residents who live there—a mere 60 years after the street and neighborhood were ruined in the name of progress and suburban flight.
- Front Street installs one new lane for bikes and one fewer lane for cars, as we have been promised.
- Entrepreneurs and restaurateurs continue to find Harrisburg a viable and vibrant place for business.
- Non-profit organizations of all stripes in Harrisburg realize that paying their municipal real estate taxes for police and fire protection is simply the right and moral thing to do and that the failure to do so makes them "free-riders" and "takers" from the rest of us who pay for them.
- People who own property in the city care enough and have pride enough to maintain their property or sell it to others who will.
- City Council works with the mayor in a spirit of cooperation for all residents and dispenses with the "us vs. them" references that divide us.
- That we find some new voices on City Council after our elections next year.
- Our suburban paper of record goes one year (OK, one month) without a sensational headline or article that disparages our city.
- No new sinkholes open around the city.
- The "land bank" gets implemented and the city and county are able to sell vacant land for productive use.
- All Harrisburg streetlights receive new energy efficient bulbs, those bulbs work and the city saves money, as we have been promised.
- The state of Pennsylvania realizes that it must invest in its capital city in much the same way and at a similar scale as the federal government has invested in Washington, D.C.
- All of our Community Publishers and advertisers in TheBurg renew for 2015.
- Many new Community Publishers and advertisers choose to work with TheBurg in 2015.
- Hundreds of new residents and dozens of new businesses decide to live and/or locate in Harrisburg in 2015.
- There is no "polar vortex" this winter.
- Penn State wins a bowl game, any bowl game.
- Local playwright Paul Hood gets his play "Brighton's Green Street" produced.
- The Broad Street Market is fully leased to fresh food vendors.
- People stop walking across the beautiful new landscaping on State Street in front of the Capitol (paid for in part by private donations) and instead use the convenient crosswalks.
- Standard Parking reduces parking rates by half between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and thus potentially increases its overall revenue by attracting additional parking in the evening.

Lastly, I'd like to make the most important holiday wish of all. I wish all of our readers a happy and healthy new year.

*J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.*

## SPRADLEY APPOINTED TREASURER

Tyrell Spradley was named Harrisburg's treasurer last month, ending a search that spanned more than two months.

A divided City Council selected Spradley following four rounds of voting, which included two other candidates—attorney Karen Balaban and former city councilman and controller Dan Miller.

Following his appointment, Spradley, 30, said he was eager to learn about and take on the part-time position, which pays \$20,000 per year.

Harrisburg needed to name a new treasurer following the arrest in August of then-city treasurer John Campbell, who has been charged with theft from two organizations where he also served as treasurer.

Council first appointed accountant Timothy East to serve as Campbell's replacement, but East withdrew his name after a personal bankruptcy came to light.

Spradley's own eligibility was briefly called into question last month over issues involving his residency and the lack of a business license for an accounting company he owns. City officials later indicated those issues had been resolved.

Spradley will serve the remainder of Campbell's four-year term, which runs until the end of next year.

## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT RECEIVED

Capital Region Water has been awarded a \$125,000 state grant to develop a Green Stormwater Infrastructure Plan for Harrisburg.

The grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will allow Capital Region Water to evaluate using green infrastructure to reduce the impacts of runoff on the Harrisburg community, the Susquehanna River and Paxton Creek, said Andrew Bliss, Capital Region Water's community outreach manager.

Green infrastructure is a broad term for trees, gardens and other ways to reduce runoff by absorbing rainwater.

Last month, Capital Region Water also marked the one-year anniversary of its takeover of city water and sewer operations.

In addition to the DCNR grant, Bliss said, the year included several other achievements, including a "Top 5" designation for best drinking water in the country; a bond refinancing that will save the authority \$4 million over two years; progress on a comprehensive GIS mapping project; and the beginning of a \$50 million upgrade to the wastewater treatment facility.

## KIM RE-ELECTED TO 103RD

Incumbent Rep. Patty Kim will serve a second term in the state legislature, as voters returned her to office last month in an uncontested race.

Kim ran unopposed in the general election for the 103rd legislative district after beating challenger Gina Roberson in the Democratic primary in May.

In other election news, former Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson lost in her bid to unseat incumbent Republican Scott Perry to represent the 4th House district in Congress.

## PLAYGROUND SAFETY GRANT

Harrisburg has received a grant that could lead to improved safety at five of the city's playgrounds.

The \$10,000 grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program will fund an inspection and safety audit of the Cloverly Heights and Royal Terrace playgrounds, as well as playgrounds at Norwood and Hollywood streets; N. 4th and Dauphin streets; and Penn and Sayford streets.

The grant also will fund the creation of a routine playground maintenance and safety program and the training of city staff on program implementation.

## MIDTOWN DISTILLERY PROPOSED

Two city residents announced plans last month to open a small-batch distillery in Midtown Harrisburg in the blighted, historic "Carpets and Draperies" building.

Alan Kennedy-Shaffer and Stanley Gruen are due to appear this month before the city's Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board in an effort to get a variance for the site at 1507 N. 3rd St., which is not zoned for industrial use.

The partners plan a full renovation of the century-old building, which has sat empty for more than a decade. Their plan includes a bar and tasting room, in addition to a craft distillery that would make such spirits as whiskey, vodka, gin and rye. They hope to open in mid-2015.

## LIGHTING GRANT APPROVED

Harrisburg's plan to upgrade its streetlights took a step forward last month, as the city announced that it had received a \$500,000 grant for its LED streetlight project.

Several months ago, the Papenfuse administration applied for the Pennsylvania Energy Department Authority grant, which City Council then approved.

In related matters, the administration last month asked council to approve the hiring of Doylestown-based Suburban Lighting Consultants to provide engineering services for the LED project. It also asked council to OK the engagement of Pittsburgh-based The Efficiency Network, which would conduct an inventory of existing streetlights and an audit of streetlight utility bills.

## SINKHOLE MONEY AVAILABLE

Some Harrisburg residents may benefit from a decision last month that allows federal assistance to be used to buy out homes endangered by sinkholes.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency ruled that municipalities could apply for aid to acquire sinkhole-prone structures.

Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse said the city immediately would apply for a grant to provide relief for homeowners along the 1400-block of S. 14th St., which has been devastated by sinkholes. There is no guarantee that Harrisburg will receive the money, as fierce competition is expected around the country for the grants.

Separately, Camp Hill-based Gannett Fleming last month issued more results of its sinkhole study in South Harrisburg.

The engineering firm told City Council that it had two options. The city could either buy out 27 houses in the middle of the most affected block or it could inject a substance beneath the surface to help stabilize the ground and prevent future sinkhole formation. Either option, both of which would include extensive road repair and relocating of residents, would cost about \$4 million.

FEMA has put a cap of \$3 million per project on its disaster allowance for sinkholes.

## PARKING ORDINANCES UPDATED

Motorists are on the hook to pay their parking fines, as the Harrisburg City Council last month updated its parking ordinances to conform to the city's financial recovery plan.

Council needed to make technical changes to the city code to give operator Standard Parking the legal authority to enforce penalties. It also changed language to increase fines and allow non-currency forms of payment, such as credit and debit cards.

Standard Parking took over the city's parking system in January, but council did not immediately update the city code. As a result, Harrisburg will receive about \$200,000 less in parking revenue than anticipated this year.

The city said it expects to receive as much as \$2.5 million in parking revenue next year.





## SCHOOLS FAIL TO MEET PERFORMANCE GOALS

Harrisburg public schools failed by a wide margin to meet academic standards set by the state-appointed chief recovery officer, according to state academic performance measures released last month.

None of Harrisburg's schools met the academic goals for the 2013-14 school year set forth by Chief Recovery Officer Gene Veno in an April 2014 amendment to his recovery plan for the district.

The state's "Building Level Academic Score" uses a 100-point scale to measure school performance. Much like a student report card, a score above 90 is considered excellent, while a score below 70 is deemed poor.

The following list shows each school's performance, followed by a bracketed number that includes Veno's goals for each school for the 2013-14 academic year.

- Math Science Academy: 75.9 [94.2]
- Harrisburg High School SciTech Campus: 63.8 [72.3]
- Foose School: 57.8 [59.8]
- Scott School: 57 [62.4]
- Melrose School: 53.1 [69.7]
- Downey School: 49.4 [67.5]
- Benjamin Franklin School: 44.6 [63.5]
- Marshall School: 44.4 [61.4]
- Rowland School: 42.6 [56.5]
- Harrisburg High School: 39.7 [57.6]
- Camp Curtin School: 39.6 [60.3]

Scores were based upon several measures, including students' performance on state standardized tests, improvement since the previous year, graduation and attendance rates and, in the case of high school students, SAT and ACT scores.



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- Adrian St., 2423: B. Bisbano to C. Warble, \$49,300
- Benton St., 527: R. & A. Della Croce to S. Rea & M. Urgiles, \$98,500
- Berryhill St., 1954: C. Frater to M. Frater, \$65,000
- Cumberland St., 119: JB Buy Rite LP to S. Pritchard, \$73,500
- Duke St., 2614: PI Capital LLC to W. & A. Rivera, \$88,900
- Fulton St., 1710: N. Culver to Cartus Financial Corp., \$107,000
- Green St., 1615: R. & S. Aulakh to J. Scott, \$92,500
- Green St., 1902: WCI Partners LP to B. Garner, \$180,000
- Green St., 2024: Fulton Bank NA to J. Workman & J. Arawj, \$139,000
- Harris St., 213: J. Counterman to 8219 Ventures, \$52,000
- Herr St., 215: R. & E. Simons to Crested Enterprises LLC, \$77,500
- Hoffman St., 3206: Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Skynet Property Management LP, \$43,000
- Holly St., 1840: Tassia Corp. to Capital Properties LLC, \$40,000
- Kensington St., 2422: PA Deals LLC to C. & S. Feggins, \$68,000
- Mulberry St., 1936: C. Doran & A. Burnett to I. Peredo, \$64,900
- N. 2nd St., 513: T. & J. Male to Cricket Real Estate Enterprises LLC, \$165,000
- N. 2nd St., 2527: N. Myers to S. & A. Andrus, \$193,500
- N. 3rd St., 2304: Harrisburg Ventures LLC to FD Harrisburg Holdings LLC, \$2,213,700
- N. 4th St., 1733: PI Capitol LLC to G. Laudenslager, \$100,000
- N. 4th St., 2336: S&T Renovations LLC to A. & A. Barras, \$58,000
- N. 4th St., 2400 & 2402: M. Reed to E&K Homes LLC, \$57,000
- N. 4th St., 2547: PA Deals LLC to J. Tucker, \$61,000
- N. 4th St., 3228: A. Wlazlak to J. Tyson, \$105,000
- N. 4th St., 3231: J. Crutchfield to J. Grant, \$79,900
- N. 7th St., 2324 & 2350; 655 Seneca St.; 648 Curtin St.: M. Spangler to DAP 7 Curtin LP, \$260,000
- N. 16th St., 1205: D. Griffin to C. & B. Orellana, \$35,000
- N. 17th St., 817: G. Andrews to J. Jacob & T. Byrd, \$120,000
- N. 20th St., 14: Kirsch & Burns LLC to LMK Properties LLC, \$32,000
- N. Cameron St., 1914: D. Marino to J. Pagliaro, \$72,000
- Norwood St., 916: M. Flickinger to Crist Holdings LLC, \$38,000
- Penn St., 1509: D. & D. Dreher to D. Walker, \$127,000
- Penn St., 1703: B. Houtz to L. Colestock, \$155,000
- Penn St., 1921: S. Vanscoyc to H. Elliot, \$123,000
- S. 3rd St., 27: E. & R. Shore to Dewberry LLC, \$190,000
- S. 17th St., 38: S. Ledesma & M. Figueroa to J. Renteria & C. Figueroa, \$30,000
- S. 25th St., 713: S. Mosley to Kirsch & Burns LLC, \$30,000
- S. Front St., 595; 106 Tuscarora St. & 601 Showers St.: J. Barton to Dunkin & Associates LP, \$250,000
- State St., 231, Unit 202: LUX 1 LP to M. Abuel Jr., \$134,900
- Tuscarora St., 104: R. Rammouni & Touch of Color to J. Jones, \$182,500
- Verbeke St., 112: PA Deals LLC to M. & G. Modi, \$125,000
- Walnut St., 126: Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Assoc. to 126 Walnut Street LLC, \$75,000
- Walnut St., 128: Pennsylvania Tourism & Lodging Assoc. to 126 Walnut Street LLC, \$75,000
- Walnut St., 1854, 1856, 1858 & 1860: T. Vu & T. Tran to T. Van et al, \$145,000

Harrisburg property sales for October 2014, greater than \$30,000.  
Source: Dauphin County. Data is assumed to be accurate.

# AN IMITATION OF LIFE

*There's real Harrisburg.  
Then there's media Harrisburg.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

Lately, I've been pondering the nature of reality. No, I'm not taking a post-graduate philosophy course nor am I suffering through some type of midlife crisis (I did that about 10 years ago). Rather, I've been wondering how people arrive at their conception of reality and how my business (the media) influences it. As usual in my columns, I'm talking mostly about Harrisburg here, though I suppose this theme could apply to many other communities and things.

When I moved here, I found Harrisburg to be a genial, if somewhat neglected, place. It was generally attractive to walk around, had some nice architecture, decent enough places to eat, a pretty Capitol building. It reminded me of some other urban neighborhoods I had lived in: great bones, nascent redevelopment, a smattering of typical inner-city woes.

Other than the city's burgeoning financial crisis—which really was a unique problem—I didn't see Harrisburg much differently than other East Coast cities, though it was a good deal smaller.

So, I was pretty shocked to learn that not everyone agreed with my assessment of this mostly pleasant place. In fact, many people disagreed—emphatically. They disagreed often and passionately and without hesitation.

I remember vividly a couple years back, when, in response to a rather innocuous post on TheBurg's Facebook page about a downtown restaurant, someone wrote that he was surprised I didn't fear for my safety.

How did this happen? I wondered. How was it that this quaint, if flawed, little city could stir such negative emotions among so many, particularly those who lived in the suburbs?

Now, I understand that Harrisburg isn't for everyone. It can be a challenging place to live, especially with the sometimes-spotty (though sometimes-good) service delivery and subpar infrastructure. But the level of contempt and fear that I found on message boards or just in casual conversation surprised me.

I suppose there are several reasons for this. First of all, Harrisburg, as I understand it, was once in pretty desperate shape. The 1960s and '70s hit all cities hard, and Harrisburg suffered more than most, with severe flooding adding to the usual list of deindustrialization, white flight, rising crime, racism and blight. A couple generations later, this legacy lingers.

Secondly, the city's government has been badly mismanaged, and that's had an impact. The worst abuses, though, have only come to light in recent years. It wasn't too long ago that Steve Reed was touted as one of the best mayors in the country.

And, thirdly, let's face it: the Harrisburg area can be pretty provincial and racially divided. There are people who seem to relish bashing the city for their own personal reasons, even if they have little firsthand experience of life here.

Mostly, though, I blame my industry, the media. The media didn't cause this misperception of Harrisburg, but it certainly has fed and done little to correct it.


Sure, the media has to report bad news; that's part of its job. But another vital part of its job is this: it should reflect reality.

Too often, media presents a fictional version of life in Harrisburg, and perpetuating a fiction is one of the worst things a news organization can do.

You want to know what life is like in Harrisburg? For the most part, it's pretty dull. Speaking personally, I walk to work, get lunch, walk home, repeat. On weekends, I do some yard work, try to eat at a good restaurant or two, and venture over to Broad Street Market, City Island and a few other places I like.

My life isn't a lot different from that of your average suburbanite, with a few exceptions. I certainly walk a lot more and have quick, easy access to some of the area's best cafés, bars, restaurants and entertainment. I also like to run along the river and at Italian Lake. To me, these are the things that make city life special, and they're why I choose to live here.





*Too often, media  
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can do.*

Believe it or not, I spend almost no time worrying about crime, thinking about parking meters or dodging bullets from gun-toting state legislators.

But you wouldn't know that from reading the front page of the Patriot-News or watching the evening news broadcast. Sure, I understand—how do you make a newscast out of a guy strolling over to Yellow Bird Café for a breakfast sandwich?

The constant drumbeat of bad news, though, has consequences, a terrible effect on the well-being of Harrisburg and its people. Taken in total, this coverage creates a fiction—a fanciful representation of life in this city. People who don't live here then believe that falsehood, accept it as reality, and act on it as if it were true.

Recently, one downtown restaurateur told me that parking rate hikes haven't much affected his business, but that he gets calls often from customers who worry for their safety. They want an assurance they won't get mugged walking the 10 feet from their parking spot on the street into his restaurant. Where do you think that irrational fear comes from?

TheBurg tries to be a counterpoint, a magazine more interested in representing life than in sensationalizing it. We think it's a more responsible approach, but we also believe that should be the mission of any news organization. Don't lie to your readers—not just in the facts of an individual story, but in the bigger picture that your reporting, editing and design, taken together, create.

Most newsrooms operate on a daily timeframe, pumping out an article or news segment on a tight deadline. Their focus is on a few stories that single day, and they try to make sure that that they're reasonably accurate. But there's little recognition of the cumulative effect of so many stories, spanning a long period of time.

Unrelenting bad news, especially when it's routinely reported breathlessly, can be destructive to a community and, worse yet, present an untrue picture of what life is like. It's a fiction, and, in the case of Harrisburg, one that is widely believed and has proven to be profoundly harmful. **B**





# COOKIES AND PUNCH

*Maybe what Harrisburg needs is less bloviating  
and more socializing.*

.....  
BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

It's been a long year, Harrisburg.

For those of us who live in the city, it's been a trying one. In fact, as Thomas Paine wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls." Women's, too.

To live in the city at this time requires a thick skin and a strong resolve. It means enduring a barrage of unabashed criticisms, insults and disappointments. There are battles galore, big ones and little ones from inside and out, fights to make Harrisburg better. Every which way are meetings, headlines, announcements, calls to action, warnings, proclamations, declarations, accusations and aspirations.

Not only is there so much to pay attention to, there's also the need to discern what's true and what isn't. That in itself can be a wearisome feat.

When it comes down to it, it's plumb tiring to be a part of a broken city in the midst of reconstruction.

Of course, it's the end of the year, and much of the bah-humbug blues are just part of the season. In Harrisburg, though, the circumstances tend to exacerbate the normal trials and tribulations of life.

Yes, it takes strong resolve to persevere in these times. It also takes cookies and punch.

The theory of cookies and punch is something that struck me a few years ago after a neighborhood holiday party.

Like this year, that year had been a long, exhausting one. The city's crisis was just cresting and apprehension filled the air. However, that community gathering on a frigid night helped cut the unease we were all feeling.

Everyone brought something. There were homemade cookies, cakes, breads and dips, along with punches and wines shared amongst all of us. The room was filled with engaged residents happy that something festive was organized for them. It wasn't a meeting obsessed with "Robert's Rules of Order" or an open mic forum of too much venting

about personal frustrations, concerns and desires. It was intended to be a purely social evening, yet there were more productive conversations about our neighborhood and our city than I had witnessed in a long time. Over and over throughout the night, I had fruitful discussions about the state of things.

What I realized is that neighborhood-wide, citywide, we are all sharing the same experience of Harrisburg, and it is only a matter of time until more and more of the gaps that seemingly separate us are bridged.

Where will those bridges come from? I dare say that social gatherings may be the wave of Harrisburg's change. In the past eight years, I have been to more city and community meetings than I can count. All too often, I walk away from these meetings thinking, "What was that?! I can't believe I just gave two-and-a-half hours of my time for that. What will even come of it?" And I'm a pretty patient and committed volunteer.

When it comes down to it, though, the most productive exchanges I've had have been in front of my house with passersby, with people I bump into at the Broad Street Market, and in spontaneous conversations over cups of coffee or pints of beer.

In these instances, I have learned more about the structure of cities, operations of the city's administration, the power of the school board, crime in my neighborhood, codes legislation, projects, history and points of view than at any formal meeting I have attended. I have learned who to contact about this and that and how to really get a response from so and so. That night so many years ago, I walked away from the party with new contacts, new ideas and future meetings scheduled to actually get something done. Tangible next steps. Something to count on.

I was a renewed ball of energy and hope.

Fortunately, I have experienced that same sensation many times since then. Away from the formalities and to the essence of communal gathering—that's when there is an encouragement of the spirit and a rejuvenation of the soul.


As this tiring year ends, let us rethink how we get things done. We should ponder what really encourages people to participate and why so many don't, leaving the grueling tasks of reconstructing a broken city to too few. We should think about how we communicate and what certain approaches imply about power and order. Ultimately, we must consider how to organize processes that represent the dynamics of our city more fairly and bring more people together.

I say let there be more cookies-and-punch gatherings and see what happens.

May this season be filled with many such endeavors in the city and, with them, a renewed sense of vigor to take us into the new year. **B**

*Tara Leo Auchey is creator and editor of today's the day Harrisburg. [www.todaysthe daybbg.com](http://www.todaysthe daybbg.com).*





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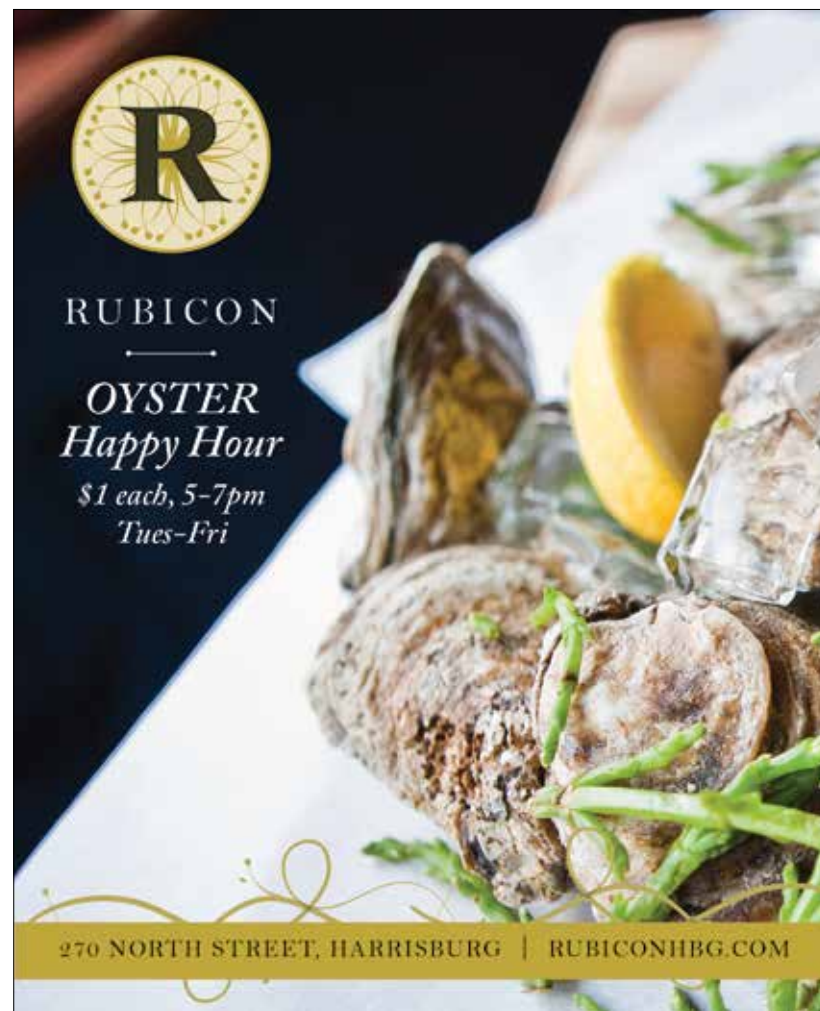
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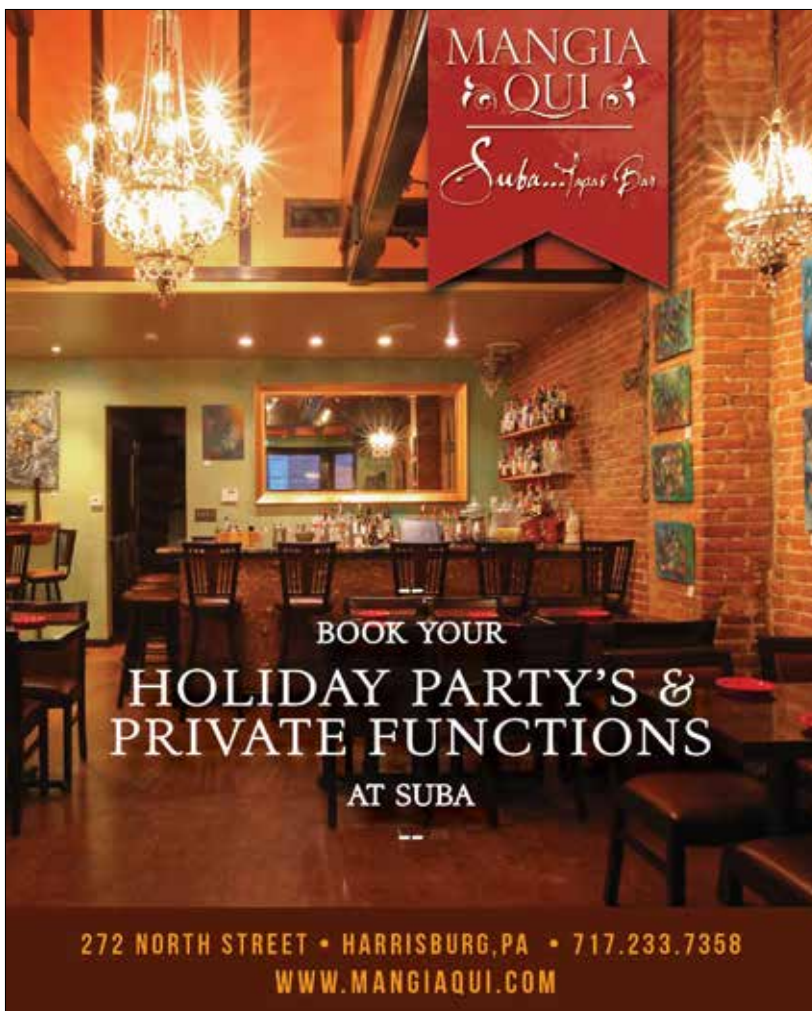
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# TURN THE CORNER

*When a convenience store started to disturb a neighborhood, residents, backed by the city, did something about it.*

BY PAUL BARKER

**O**n the afternoon of Friday, May 30, Dave Patton, Harrisburg's codes administrator, walked into the T-Mart convenience store and asked to see its health license.

As a business, the T-Mart, at the corner of N. 3rd and Herr streets, was in some ways typical of its environs, the patchy commercial district north of Forster, in the city's Midtown neighborhood. Across Herr Street is a new Moroccan restaurant; across 3rd, takeout Chinese. Further down the block is a diverse array of businesses, including a trendy pasta place, a greasy spoon, a barber and a pawn shop with red and yellow banners saying, "We Buy Gold." The T-Mart was just one more business in the mix, carrying the usual corner-store fare: cigarettes, cell phones, candy, toilet paper, over-the-counter painkillers.

In other ways, though, the T-Mart stuck out like a sore thumb. Not long after it opened, in early 2012, the store erected a wooden produce stand along one of its exterior walls. Often, the stand was empty, but when it did have fruit, it was of questionable quality. "It looked like the stuff that fell off the back of the truck," one neighbor told me. Then there were the windows. Initially, the owner filled them with flyers and ads, so that it was difficult to see into the store from outside. Then, starting sometime in 2013, they kept getting busted in. That October, and again in January and May of this year, police got reports of someone smashing the glass in the shop's front door.

On May 12, someone threw a brick through one of the main windows, and, shortly afterwards, large plywood panels appeared, covering all the glass on both sides of the door. Now there were no views into the building whatsoever. As one neighbor put it in an email to the city, they made "an occupied store look abandoned." (Cigarettes, other unnamed items and a total of \$850 were reported stolen in connection with these break-ins, according to police reports.)

But the T-Mart's most unusual feature was the traffic outside its door. Particularly beginning in the winter of 2014, neighbors frequently witnessed what they took to calling "curb service"—a car would roll up, and someone would come out of the T-Mart with what looked like a Styrofoam takeout tray in a plastic bag. The store, however, didn't sell prepared food. The T-Mart also started to keep irregular hours, which led to another strange phenomenon. People would hover outside the entrance, waiting for it to open. Neighbors found this odd, because there were other convenience stores a few doors away,

selling substantially the same items. "If you need a cigarette, it's over there. If you need a Coca-Cola, it's over there," David Botero, a police department community liaison who monitored concerns about the T-Mart, told me. "Why are you waiting for this store to open, and why is there a line of people to come into the store?"

Prior to Patton's visit, the T-Mart had already been cited a few times for various violations. In April 2013, the store was caught selling cigarettes without a license, while, more recently, earlier in May, it got nabbed for illegally selling individual cigarettes out of the pack, also known as "loosies."

When Patton entered the store on May 30, the owner, a Nepali man named Tika Siwakoti, wasn't there. But the man behind the counter, whom Patton took to be an employee, started digging around in search of the license. "Nah, don't bother," Patton said after a moment. "I know you don't have it." In fact, Patton's question was only a test; he'd looked up the T-Mart's records at his office and knew that Siwakoti hadn't renewed. In addition, the shop owed a couple hundred dollars in overdue mercantile taxes.

As it happened, another man in the store was on the phone with Siwakoti at that moment, and he passed the phone to Patton. "You have til Monday," Patton told him. Siwakoti started to protest, but Patton held firm. "I don't think you're feeling me," he said. He told Siwakoti that if he didn't update his license and get current on his taxes, the city would shut him down.

**O**ne of Mayor Eric Papenfuse's first actions in office was to promise a new approach to crime. He made Thomas Carter, a soft-spoken and courteous 26-year veteran of the force, the permanent police chief—he had been holding the position in an interim capacity—in a decision Papenfuse later called "the most important" of his first year. He also engaged Robert Martin, the longtime chief in Susquehanna Township, to consult Harrisburg in adopting "community policing" techniques. (Martin and those efforts were the subject of a profile in this magazine's March issue.)

"Community policing" is an umbrella term for methods that are meant to improve a department's relationship with the public. That might make it sound like a branch of marketing, and indeed, David Botero, whom Papenfuse appointed in January under the title of "community policing coordinator," sometimes speaks of the police department's "brand." (In a past life, he worked at an ad agency.) But to its adherents, community policing is also about good police work. A department that has positive relationships with residents, they believe, will ultimately pick up better tips, catch more criminals and generally have an easier time doing its job.

In the case of the T-Mart, neighbors stepped up their involvement in mid-May. "People reported suspicious activity there," Botero told me recently. "Then, when we looked into it; 'suspicious' turned out to be pretty legit."

Jonathan Hendrickson, the president of Midtown Square Action Council, one of the neighborhood

groups that corresponded with Botero, said that, in the preceding weeks, the situation outside the store had worsened dramatically. "We kind of called an emergency meeting, because there were some things that just had been getting really shady," he told me.

One neighbor complained she'd been solicited for sex in front of the store. Another neighbor, fed up with what he saw as blatant evidence of drug dealing, had created around a dozen flyers advertising an "Open Air Drug Market," which he posted on telephone poles in the neighborhood. The flyer showed a skeleton figure hawking "diesel" and "hard"—nicknames for heroin and crack cocaine, respectively—and provided T-Mart's name, address and phone number. (Aside from Hendrickson, neighbors I spoke with asked not to be identified.)

On the morning of May 30, a neighbor emailed a contact in the mayor's office with a complaint about the T-Mart's boarded-up windows. The mayor's assistant forwarded the complaint to several officials, including a police captain, Patton from codes and Botero. Within a few hours, Patton had made his visit to the store and reported back on the thread. Botero replied three minutes later. "Thank you; and excellent—great job, DP!" he wrote. He asked how much he could share with the Midtown group, which he planned to meet the following Monday. The group was "[v]ery political, very vocal, very connected," he added. "They will be asking about this property." (The city produced the email chain in response to a right-to-know request; the neighbor's name was redacted.)

Initially, the city seemed to think the extra scrutiny would be enough to close the shop. "We were planning to shut everything down," Patton told me. But, the following Monday, to his surprise, Siwakoti showed up in city hall to renew his license and pay the taxes. "We kind of had to go to Plan B," Patton said.

"Plan B" was the codes enforcement equivalent of a full-court press. Over the next three months, the city applied every kind of pressure within reach to drive the T-Mart out of the neighborhood. In June, another police officer caught the store selling loosies. In July, and again in August, a codes inspector cited the owner for the boarded-up windows, this time filing the charges in "housing court," a concept Papenfuse revived this year as part of a crackdown on blight. Both times, the judge, David Judy, handed down a \$600 fine.

On Aug. 5, a codes inspector and a city health officer showed up at the T-Mart together and found myriad violations. The health officer's report noted the lack of soap and paper towels in the bathroom, expired Similac baby formula for sale, and "evidence of pest on food shelving," among other offenses. The codes report was even more voluminous. It cited exposed wiring in an electrical box, a padlocked exit door, a fire extinguisher with expired tags, one emergency light blocked by boxes and another inoperative, and a dozen other violations. Additionally, it noted there were still boards on the windows.

Meanwhile, the neighbors and Botero were in touch with the landlord, a man named Geoffrey Rhine. On May 27, Rhine had sent a termination





notice to the T-Mart, which referred to lease violations as well as “complaints from others in the nearby neighborhood about the impact of activities in and around T-Mart.” On Aug. 12, he sent a second notice, ordering Siwakoti to vacate by Sept. 15. Nonetheless, by early October, the T-Mart had still not left the premises.

On Oct. 7, Hendrickson of Midtown Square Action Council sent a letter to Rhine. He claimed that, following the health inspection, the shop had switched from selling food to selling clothing and “burner-style” cell phones.” He added that the neighborhood group was trying to help find a new tenant for the space, but asked Rhine to initiate eviction proceedings in the meantime. “We can do little while the property remains a blighted source of drugs and decay within our neighborhood,” he wrote. Finally, one week later, on Oct. 14, Rhine filed for eviction. “He took one for the team,” Botero told me. “He could’ve played dumb, but he did the right thing.”

Siwakoti’s eviction hearing took place on Wednesday, Oct. 29, in District Justice Barbara Pianka’s courtroom in the Uptown Shopping Plaza. At 9:30 a.m., Rhine was already there, sitting just inside the door with his hands folded in his lap. Siwakoti arrived 15 minutes later, in a tan sports jacket, light brown corduroys, and a tan ball cap with a Yankees logo. It looked as though he hadn’t shaved in several days. He spotted Rhine, walked over to him and shook his hand. “Hi, Tika,” Rhine said. Siwakoti checked in at the counter, took a seat and began reading from his phone.

Just before 10, a clerk called them into the courtroom. After a short wait, during which neither

of them spoke, Pianka entered in her black judge’s robes and took her seat at the bench. Rhine, in his complaint, had not asked for any money beyond court costs; he simply wanted the eviction. He began by referring to a paragraph in Siwakoti’s lease, which required compliance “with all statutes, ordinances, and requirements of all municipal, state, and federal authorities.” Pianka stopped him, asking whether Siwakoti had a copy of the lease.

“I misplaced the lease,” Siwakoti said quietly. “I lost it.” Pianka left to make a photocopy so that, she said, Siwakoti would “know exactly what’s taking place today.” When she came back, she handed the document to Siwakoti, who began to protest. “Your Honor, it is not really failure,” he said. “What happened was—” Pianka cut him off, telling him that Rhine had to finish the complaint first.

Rhine picked up where he’d left off. In addition to the paragraph about compliance with local ordinances, the lease, which was dated Nov. 12, 2011, contained an option to extend the lease an additional two years, which had to be exercised by Sept. 15, 2013. Siwakoti, Rhine said, had never exercised the option. He reviewed a series of documents he’d attached to the complaint, including Hendrickson’s letter, his termination notices, and the failed codes inspections. He also included an email he’d sent Siwakoti on Aug. 1 about reports that boards were still up in the windows. “Please make immediate necessary window repairs and get the boards removed,” it said. It also suggested that Siwakoti contact Botero and neighborhood groups “on how to work together to eliminate the undesirable drug trafficking and loitering in the area around the building.”



Once Rhine had reviewed all this, Pianka gave Siwakoti a chance to speak. He began by defending the presence of the boards in the windows. “The store got broke in five, six times,” he said. “Six glasses was broken. I had to board that up til I fixed that. It is not a magic to fix six glasses in a matter of weeks.” He said the repairs had cost a total of \$3,200. As for the violations, he said, everything in his store was up to code except for a piece of exposed wire in the ceiling, which he only learned was a violation when the inspector pointed it out. He said he had “never received any letter” from the neighbors, but that whatever it said was “totally, absolutely false.” He dismissed the idea that people gathering on the corner was evidence of wrongdoing, noting that sort of thing happens anywhere there’s a business. “This is a court,” he said. “People have to come here, they’re going to gather outside.” There were “absolutely no drugs” and “absolutely no kind of any illegal solicitation” inside or outside his store, he said.

When he was finished, Pianka asked Rhine if he had any questions for Siwakoti.

“No,” Rhine said.

“Anything else I need to be made aware of today?” she asked.

Rhine confirmed that he wasn’t seeking money damages, only an eviction and payment for his court costs. Siwakoti said that, because he’d lost the lease, he wasn’t aware of the deadline for the extension. Then he digressed into a discussion of rent. He spoke quietly, and his syntax was hard to decipher, but he seemed to be saying that, if Rhine wanted to negotiate a higher rent payment, he was open to doing so. Finally, he returned to the codes inspection. When a codes inspector found something wrong, he said, that was “not a violation—that is ‘need to fix.’” Every problem that had been identified, he said, he had since resolved.

Outside the courtroom, I introduced myself to Rhine. Botero had referred to him as the “unsung hero” of the story because he had cooperated with the city and neighbors. I wanted to know: did he see things the same way?

Rhine, who grew up in Camp Hill but now lives outside Philadelphia, said he’d be willing to talk, but added that he didn’t want his name to appear in the story. When, in a follow-up call, I told him I couldn’t grant that condition, because his comments were made in a public forum, he declined to be interviewed further.

On a rainy day in late October, I met Botero outside the T-Mart on 3rd Street. He rolled up in a white police caravan—an airy, rattling vehicle he described as a “lunchbox.” When I climbed on board, he offered me a McDonald’s coffee from a tray of them on the floor between the driver’s and

passenger’s seats.

Botero isn’t a cop. He doesn’t carry a badge or a gun, and he has no background in police work. A New Jersey native of Colombian descent, he has an olive complexion, clear blue-gray eyes and short black hair, speckled with gray. In his role as an intermediary between citizens and police, he tries to be both a cheerleader and a friend. He maintains a huge network of contacts—buddies, acquaintances, people he’s given one-time favors. He’s conspicuously informal, identifying himself in email signatures as “community peace dude.” Whenever possible, he

it’s happening there, it’s because the neighborhood allows it to be there. Midtown clearly does not have any tolerance for that. And they did something about it.”

As we talked, Botero spotted a woman laden with shopping bags on a street corner, looking forlorn. He pulled up beside her, rolled down the window, and called out to offer her a ride. She was on her way to a department store in Kline Village and had missed her bus. It was raining, and, after a moment’s consideration, she climbed on board. Botero can talk to anybody, and, in no time, the two were chatting

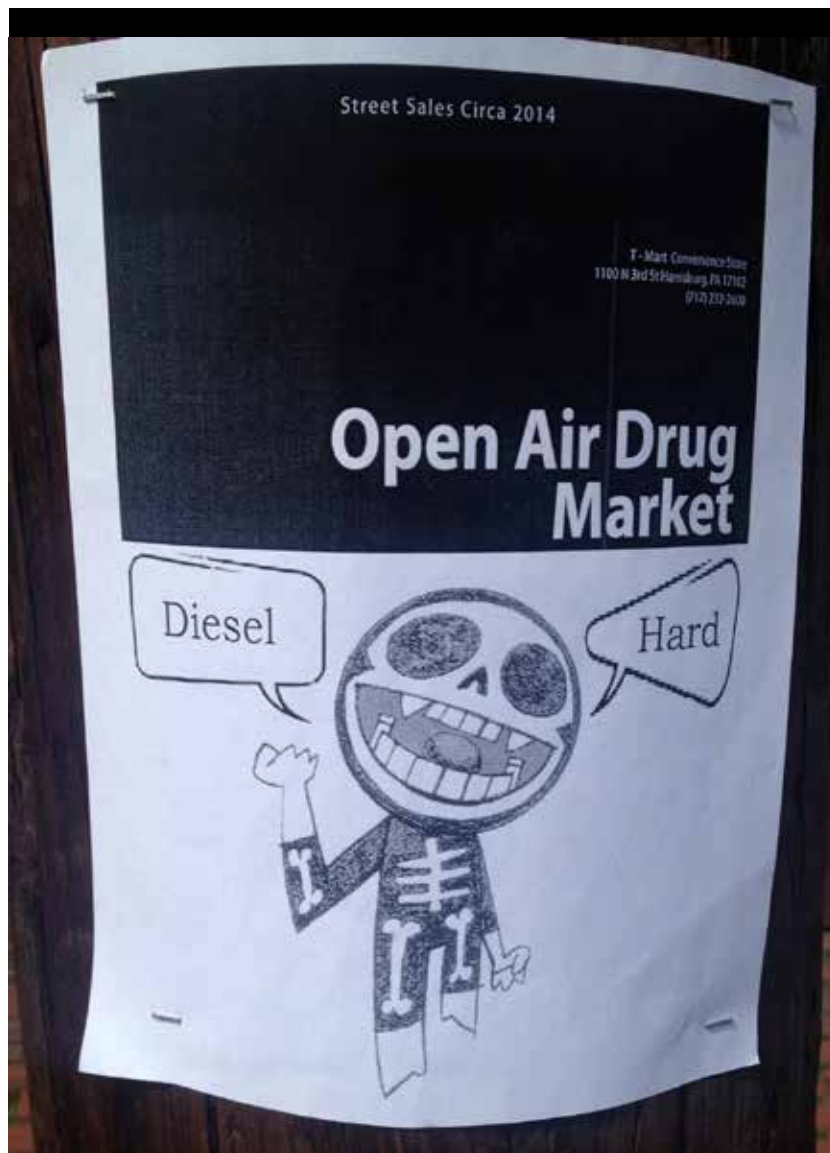
amiably—about bus routes, their churches, their opinions of local media. After driving 15 minutes out of his way, he dropped her off at the store’s front door. “That was God right there,” he said as we drove away. “This is not politicking, because it’s not an election week,” he added. “It’s got zero to do with that. She will go to Hillside”—her church—“and she will say, ‘You know what? Some nice officer came and got me.’ That’s all I care about. And that’s branding. That’s my goal.”

We returned to the topic of the T-Mart. I wanted to know whether the neighborhood involvement had actually solved the problem. The city had driven the store out of a particularly active neighborhood—wouldn’t it now just take up residence somewhere less vigilant? “The cool thing about this is, what it isn’t, it’s not ‘Not In My Backyard,’” Botero said. “Because he’s not taking it to the West Shore, he’s not taking it to Derry, he’s not taking it to Uptown. He’s just kicked out, period.” He said he would hold up the story as an example for other neighborhoods, to show them that they, too, had the ability to control the activities on their street corners. “I’m going to Southside, going to all those places, saying, ‘We did it here.’ Not because they’re white and

because they’re homeowners, but because they cared, and they did something about it,” he said. “And we, the city, stepped in and did it.”

tries to inject excitement into the enterprise. At the end of our first phone call, he asked me to email him my contact information. He wrote back with an immediate one-line reply: “giddy up!”

To Botero, the T-Mart episode represented a classic case of neighborhood intervention. On the phone, he’d praised the Midtown neighbors, saying he wanted their efforts to be a “blueprint” for other neighborhoods. “They helped us to stay focused,” he said. In the car, he elaborated. “Four or five years from now, when things continue to change, I’m gonna look back at this T-Mart,” he told me. “Because other neighborhoods that have, quote-unquote, ‘T-Mart,’ those nuisance businesses? If



A week after his eviction hearing, I called Siwakoti. He picked up on the third ring. I told him I was a reporter interested in his version of events regarding neighborhood complaints about the T-Mart.

“That is not ‘neighborhood,’” he began. He claimed the people complaining about his store were not actually residents of the neighborhood, adding he was a victim of “racial hating.” “They are white,” he said, so officials “are going to listen to them, not me.”



He also felt he'd been unfairly targeted over violations and that neighboring businesses had not received the same scrutiny.

While we were speaking, I heard Siwakoti field what sounded like a sale. "3.99," he said. "Plus tax." I asked whether he was in his store. Yes, he said, the store on 4th Street. In addition to the T-Mart at 3rd and Herr, Siwakoti until recently operated two other stores—one at the corner of 4th and Harris, the other on Locust Street downtown. (He was evicted from the downtown store on Oct. 30, for apparently unrelated reasons; the complaint, by a different landlord, claimed he owed \$3,500 in rent.) I asked if I could come over, and he said that would be fine.

I pulled up in front of the store around 10 minutes later. The door was open, but the lights were off, and Siwakoti stood on the stoop, smoking a cigarette. He said he was having electrical problems and that someone was coming to make repairs.

We talked outside for around 40 minutes. In that time, perhaps a dozen different people approached the store. One identified himself as a student in a forklift operating class in the HACC parking lot across the street. He came to buy a knit cap. Others came close, peered through the open door into the dark shop, and then walked off. For the most part, Siwakoti didn't acknowledge them.

There were, however, exceptions. At one point, a forest green van pulled up and a middle-aged man, wearing a hoodie and a gold chain, climbed out. He entered the store and, a minute later, reemerged with an orange drink and drove away. Siwakoti didn't say a word. I asked if the man worked for him. "Yes," he said. "I've been robbed at gunpoint more than hundreds of times. So I asked this guy, he doesn't drink, smoke or do drugs, can you help me, stay around me?" On another occasion, a sedan rolled to a stop in front of the store with the windows down. A man leaned out and told Siwakoti to close the door, so that people wouldn't think the store was open. Then he drove on.

For most of our conversation, Siwakoti spoke freely, even emphatically, about how he'd been mistreated. He dismissed the citation for expired baby formula, saying it was only one can out of 15 on the shelf, and he would never have sold it if someone tried to buy it. He also complained that a TV news story about the T-Mart didn't accurately portray his statements. (The story, which ran on Channel 8, introduces the T-Mart as a "nuisance business" that "voluntarily" closed.) He seemed particularly agitated by the accusation about sex solicitation, which he said occurred everywhere. "That happens in front of police building, in front of MLK Government Center," he said. "If my customer winds up being prostitute, that's my fault? Prostitutes don't go to city hall?"

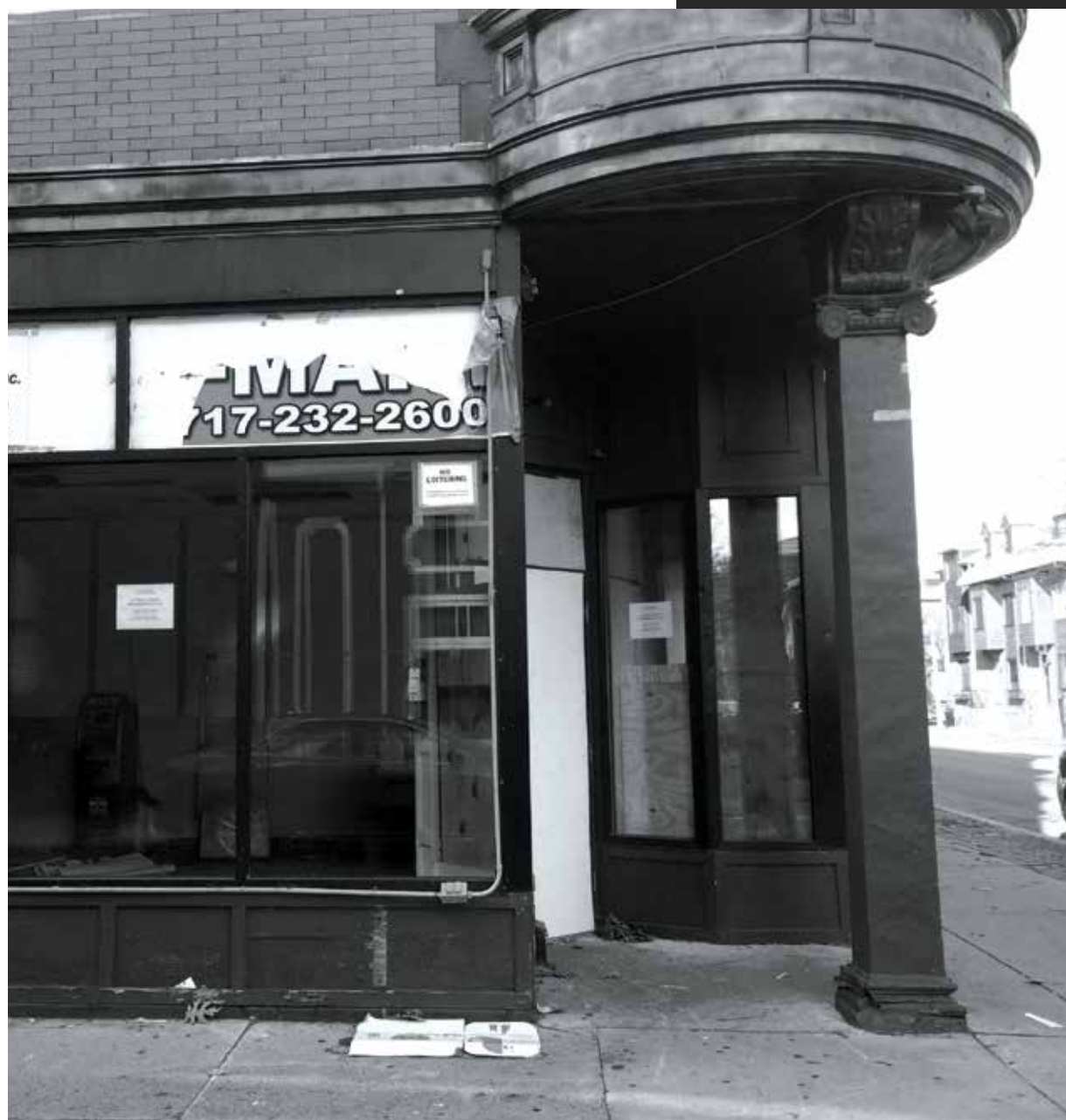
But then, at the end of our conversation, he suddenly started to withdraw. He said he didn't want his name in the paper—it was too late for his business, and quoting him would only damage him further. He said the police and the city, who were already against him, would come after him for what he'd told me. "They will chase my ass out of town," he said.

Two guys who had walked up and found the store closed had been hovering nearby. When I wouldn't consent to not printing anything he'd told me, Siwakoti called at them so that he could have a "witness." They ignored him. Finally, he called out, "Hey, deaf!" One guy walked off, but the other turned around and came over. He was young, perhaps in his late 20s, and wearing a varsity jacket and a ball cap.

I expected Siwakoti to explain his demands, but instead, they just talked about the T-Mart. The young man, who seemed familiar with the situation, waved the allegations of drug dealing aside. "Only drugs I know is medicine," Siwakoti said. "They said I was selling heroin. I don't know what is heroin!" He laughed.

The young man started to say something about how "they" had targeted the T-Mart and broken its windows, but when I pressed him, he wouldn't say who. He stepped out into the street. "Tell them the real reason all those people went in there," he said finally. Siwakoti was silent. "He was selling loosies!" the guy said.

After our conversation, I went to get lunch. An hour later, on my way back to work, I drove past the 4th Street store. The lights were on, and the door was open. **B**







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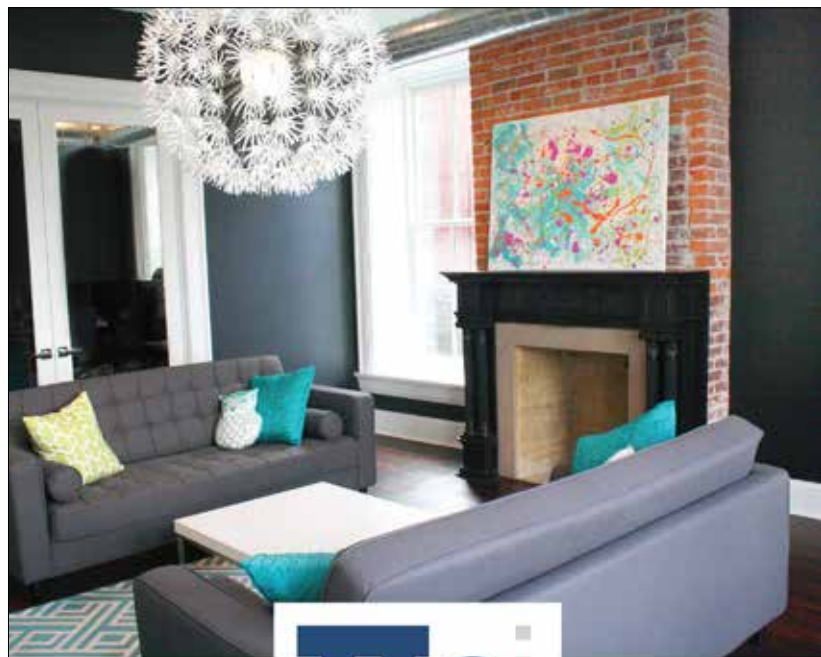


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# MISSION TRIP

*Hope, encouragement and song: A single night in the century-long life of the Bethesda Mission.*

BY PAUL BARKER

On weekday nights, around 8 p.m., the halls of the Bethesda Mission men's shelter, at the corner of 6th and Reily in Harrisburg, are cleared for cleaning.

The long-term guests do most of the work, according to a schedule of duties pinned up next to a poster for HIV testing. The other men either wait in the chapel, watching TV, or go outside, where they can have a smoke and look out at the view: a parking lot, a grassy field, a luxury residential high-rise.

This routine was underway at Bethesda when I arrived to check in there, on a mild, foggy night in mid-November. On the recommendation of the shelter's program director, whom I'd interviewed a couple of weeks before, I showed up unannounced and asked for a place to sleep.

On Dec. 22, the Bethesda Mission marks its 100th anniversary. Most people associate Bethesda, if they know it at all, with the men's shelter at 611 Reily, a grand brick structure with an iconic green cross hanging out

front. The shelter has been at that location since 1934, when Bethesda purchased what had previously been the Railroad YMCA. But, since 1983, the organization has also operated a women's shelter in Allison Hill, in a former elementary school. And, since 1990, it has run a youth ministry out of an old fire station at 15th and Herr.

This year, the Bethesda Mission has undertaken a campaign to spread awareness of its lesser-known programs, through billboards and radio ads bearing the tagline "Inspire Hope." A second goal of the campaign, according to Scott Dunwoody, Bethesda's vice president for business development, is to educate the public about Bethesda's mission. Traditionally, a homeless shelter was thought of as providing bare essentials—"three hots and a cot," Dunwoody said. "But now the goal is long-term recovery."

While the employees at reception figured out how to accommodate me, men streamed out of the chapel into the front hall. A few minutes later, a voice over the speakers, polite but firm, reminded everyone to keep out of the way of the cleaners.

The men at reception didn't push too hard. They didn't ask for my name or my information, but they did want to make sure I needed just the one night. Unless you enter Bethesda's recovery program, New Beginnings, you're limited to one 10-night stay every four months, and they were puzzled I didn't want to stay longer. "You miss the bus or something?" one of them asked. They said they could put me up on a mat on the chapel floor. "Now, don't come back tomorrow saying you want the 10 nights," one of them added.

The recovery program at the men's shelter extends a guest's stay in phases. A guest in the New Beginnings program can stay for four months, but he has to opt in by his fifth night. A second phase, called the Helmsman program, extends the stay another six months. Doug Barger, program director at the men's shelter, explained Bethesda wants guests to make a considered decision to sign up for recovery—and not just a last-ditch choice because they have nowhere to go. "We make a long-term commitment to them," he said. "They have to make a long-term commitment to us."

Barger has been with Bethesda for 13 years. He previously worked at America's Keswick, a Christian addiction

recovery program in Whiting, N.J. Like many people who go into recovery work, he overcame his own addiction. "I gave my life to Christ and asked my church to pray for me," he said. When I asked if his experience helped him understand Bethesda's guests, he replied, "I speak their language. I know where they're coming from." Many of them, he said, don't believe he ever had an addiction, because they don't think theirs can be defeated. "But I tell them, 'It's very possible. Just make the next right decision.'"

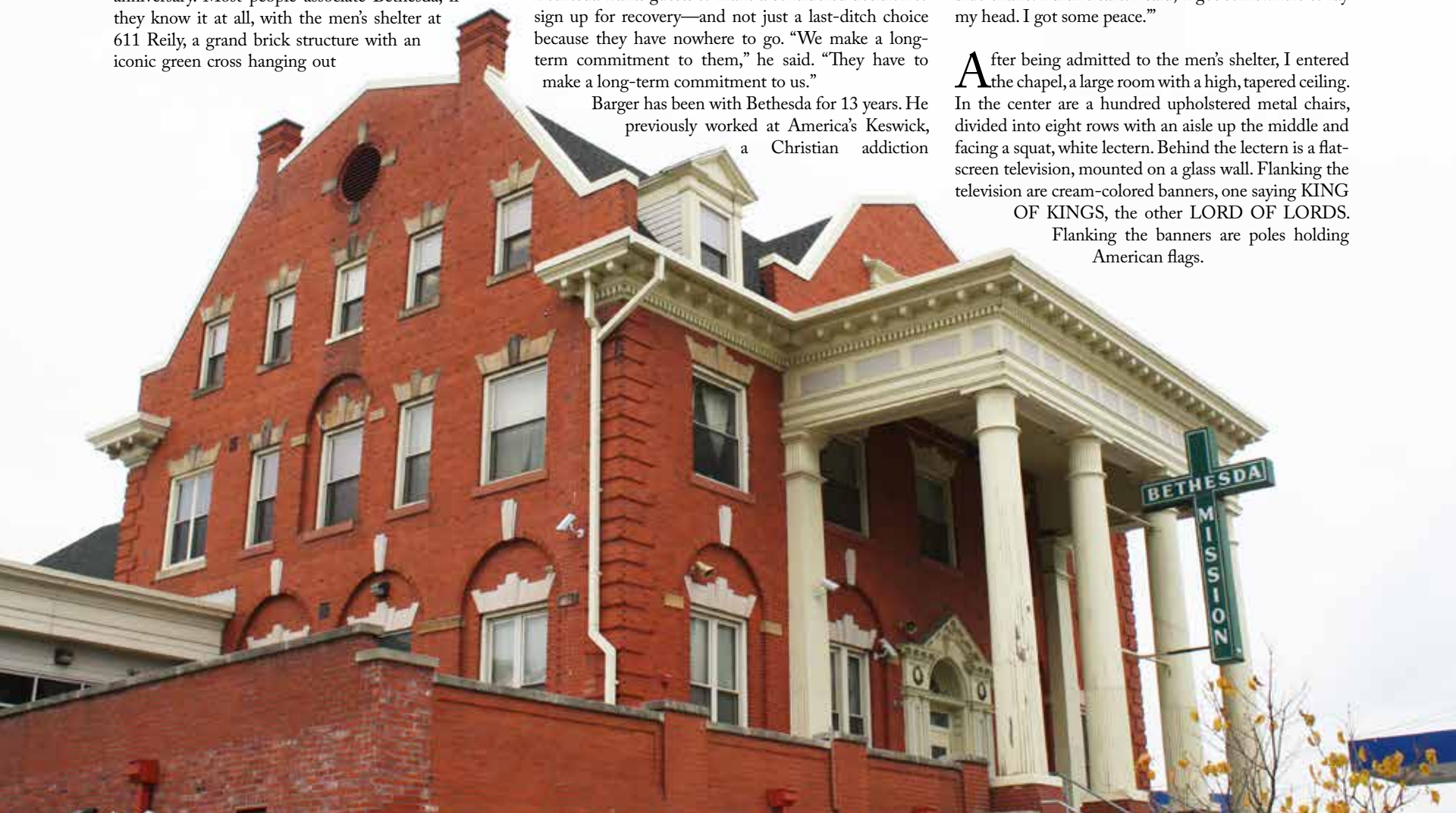
Programs at the women's shelter operate on a different calendar. Residents must commit to a full year, and their movements are restricted for an initial period, the length of which varies depending on the circumstances that brought them there. As Shelley Brooks, who has been the director there for the past 30 years, explained, "We don't do emergency shelter. We focus on recovery and homelessness."

Brooks took me on a tour of the house in late October. Where the men's shelter feels like a dormitory, the women's shelter feels like a home—quieter, cozier, more evidently inhabited. We passed a mural, titled "Fruits of the Spirit," showing a tree bearing fruit of a dozen different varieties. I took note of a banana labeled "patience" and a pineapple labeled "love." "People become very gentle, very caring for one another, once they find out that they're safe," Brooks told me. She recounted the looks on women's faces at Christmas, when they receive gifts from donors who learned about their specific needs. "They don't understand that someone took their name, and went out and bought clothes that fit them, and wrapped it—that there are still good people in the world."

Brooks introduced me to Margarita Rodriguez, the shelter's house manager, who has worked at Bethesda for 14 years. Margarita, who came through the program herself, recalled her feelings the night she arrived. "It was a release for me," she said. "They had these raggedy blue chairs. I didn't care. I said, 'I got somewhere to lay my head. I got some peace.'"

After being admitted to the men's shelter, I entered the chapel, a large room with a high, tapered ceiling. In the center are a hundred upholstered metal chairs, divided into eight rows with an aisle up the middle and facing a squat, white lectern. Behind the lectern is a flat-screen television, mounted on a glass wall. Flanking the television are cream-colored banners, one saying KING OF KINGS, the other LORD OF LORDS.

Flanking the banners are poles holding American flags.





I sat in one of the chairs to get my bearings. A young man, perhaps 19 or 20 years old, stood in the corner with a ping-pong paddle, serving a ball to himself off of a spot high up on the wall. After a few minutes, I headed to a lounge behind the altar, dimly visible through the glass. Here, perhaps two-dozen armchairs were crowded together in front of another television. Several men reclined in them, some with shoeless feet draped over the arms, watching “Thirteen Ghosts.” At one point, someone remarked he’d once walked from Philadelphia to York. At another, someone said the chairs were comfortable. But mostly no one said anything.

I headed back out to the chapel. In the interim, maybe half-a-dozen men had drifted in and taken seats, and the television was now on. Someone flipped the channel to a documentary about Randy Moss. In addition to ping pong, the chapel is home to a foosball table. While I was eyeing it, a young man walked over and picked up a small cardboard box off a stack of hymnals on a bench nearby. It held traveler’s toothpaste. He gave it a little shake. “There a foosball in there?” I asked him. “Huh?” he said. He started to walk off, and then he turned around. “You want to play foosball?”

The young man’s name was Preston. It was hard to guess his age. He had short, dark hair, light brown skin and a compact build. He said he grew up in the area; he’d played foosball at his daycare in Allison Hill. He’d been at the shelter for 2½ months and was enrolled in the New Beginnings program, which he highly recommended. I asked if he knew Barger, and told him I was there on Barger’s advice, to help with a story I was working on for a local magazine. He sounded disappointed, but not fazed. He told me his story in basic outline. He’d developed a drinking problem, and had been in the shelter once before; this time, he wanted his recovery to stick. He hoped someday to go into counseling, personal training or theater and the arts. Then, after making a winning shot, he shook my hand, said it was nice meeting me and disappeared.

By this time, the cleaning was finished, and the men starting moving around more freely. In a corner room off the main hallway, I came upon two men in raised swivel chairs singing Little Anthony and the Imperials’ “Tears on My Pillow.” Their names were Phil and Steve. Phil was white, with a bushy beard and gray hair parted neatly in the middle. He wore a long, V-neck T-shirt over his round belly. He sang the lead in a reedy vibrato, baring long, white teeth and keeping time with his hands. Steve, on the bass line, was black, bald, wore glasses and carried a toothpick in the corner of his mouth. When they finished the song, Steve wanted to take pictures with his Fujifilm disposable camera—first of Phil and me, then of Phil and himself.

They continued to sing doo-wop songs for the next half hour, usually introduced by Phil: “Blue Moon,” “Under the Boardwalk.” Phil had to grope to come up with each next song, but, once he started, he knew the words. In between songs, they talked about their situations. Steve was from Philadelphia, where he and his brother worked in a barbershop. “Each day, I’d cut hair, take my money and go buy dope,” he said. He had a plan that was a little hard to follow. The gist of it was he hoped to sell some property he owned in Philly, save up while going through the full program at Bethesda, and eventually buy a home. Phil left and came back with a gray, pinstripe suit on a hanger. “Look what God gave me,” he said. His daughters, he added suddenly, would not be coming to visit this weekend after all, because their grandfather had fallen ill. “But that’s just part of God’s timing,” he said.

As the men sang, a small crowd gathered to listen or sing along. Then, all at once, the group dispersed—it was time for roll call and prayer. Men filed into the chapel, filling up the rows, and a man named Israel, one of two who had checked me in, approached the podium. He made reference to the grace of God, soliciting applause. Then his tone became more somber. “Gentlemen,” he said. “If you sign up for the doctor on Tuesday night, then you gotta be here.” The men were rapt; the chapel fell into a guilty, schoolroom silence.

Israel moved on. It was Veteran’s Day, and, after thanking those who served, he reflected on the private “war” of addiction. “Use the tools you pick up in here out there,” he said. “Cause guess what? Nothing’s changed out there.” Then he told the group they could take “late showers”—an opportunity not afforded every night—and that the laundry, which held a stockpile of toiletries, would be open for people who needed them. He waxed briefly on the topic of deodorant. “Use it!” he said. “It’s here for you, man. You know what I mean?” Then he called roll, cracked a joke about the “barbershop quartet” in the hallway, and said a short prayer.

After prayer, the night wound down quickly. Heading back into the hall, I learned that the corner where Phil and Steve were singing was, in fact, Bethesda’s actual barbershop—someone was now sitting on a swivel chair, getting a buzz cut from another guest. For a while, a few men hung around in the chapel, watching the CBS crime drama “Person of Interest.” The episode was a potboiler, built around a gratuitous riff on the Ebola crisis. But the plot was engrossing, and there were murmurs of disappointment when, halfway through, the loudspeakers crackled on to announce it was time for lights out. I went back to collect a mat from the hallway, a thick foam slab encased in a rubber sheet. When I got back, I was alone.

Two of the chapel walls are lined with stained glass windows, all made in an identical abstract pattern: yellow in the center, with green, red and blue along the borders. Though the windows don’t look out on anything, they are lit by fluorescents from behind. Now, with the other lights off, they gave the room a yellow-green glow. I placed my mat on the floor, between the ping-pong and foosball tables.

Also along the chapel walls are quotations from the Bible, and, at various points in the evening, I read and re-read one from Paul’s letter to the Colossians, intrigued by one line in particular: “You were enemies in your minds because of your evil ways.”

With nothing better to do, I found a Bible on an empty chair and flipped to the relevant passage. The letter to the Colossians, only a few pages long, is a note offering encouragement and some guidance on the faith to a new Christian church in Colossae. At the end of it, Paul notes that he’s writing from prison. “Remember that I am being held by chains,” he says. It’s a curious way to end a letter. For me, it has the effect of making the preceding advice seem less preachy. It’s as if Paul is saying, “I need this stuff as much as you do.” I thought of what Barger said about overcoming his own addiction and the fact that most of the men working at Bethesda, at one time or another, went through the program themselves.

Just before 11 p.m., a voice came over the loudspeaker a final time. “All conversations, guys, must come to an end,” it chided gently. “Please respect yourself, your neighbors and this facility. Some of these guys have to get up and go to work in the morning. And some of them have to get up and cook.” **B**



Margarita Rodriguez





# A DIFFERENT DRUM

*Real-deal drummers have a beat on Dale's.*

BY BRENDAN MENAPACE

There's a sign hanging over the register at Dale's Drum Shop that says, "We'd rather make friends than \$\$.

It's a mantra for the surprisingly large and extensive drum retailer tucked away in a residential neighborhood in Colonial Park. With multiple rooms filled wall-to-wall with supplies, it's enough to make any drummer drool. What makes the shop even more interesting is its history. Founder Dale Wise was the right-hand man of legendary drummer Buddy Rich.

Rejje Troup is the general manager at Dale's and has been a part of it pretty much since the beginning. On a recent workday, Troup, who has a raspy voice and a horseshoe mustache, was sitting in the shop's workroom, a narrow space lined with boxes of drumheads, sticks and countless tools. Joining him was Dale's sales manager, Dan Grabski, a tall and skinny man with a beard and a few tattoos peeking out of his shirt.

"Basically, Dale came off the road—he was Buddy Rich's drum tech—and started the store with two other friends of his," Troup said. "It was down in the basement. You had to duck your head to get down in, but I remember, the first time I went in, I was amazed at how much gear he had fit into that small space."

The shop opened in 1982 and was originally called BCR, which stood for Bluegrass, Country and Rock n' Roll. BCR still exists today in Lemoyne, but with different ownership. Wise's two business partners handled the guitar end of the business, and he had the drums.

Troup remembers Wise tinkering in his limited space, making everything stand out perfectly. He speaks of him with a reverent and respectful tone, but he doesn't gush. He tells the stories of the shop's origins with the same humbleness Wise is known for, but he still takes great pride in what they've accomplished.

"A lot of times, he'd sneak in at night and maybe move his stuff one or two more inches to pick up space from the other guys that were there," he said. "They never even knew that he did it, but he knew, just like it is here now, that you have to have product and that's why people come in."

The shop drew customers in from near and far. Troup says that he used to make a sometimes 45-minute commute himself.

"If you bought anything else from around here, you were paying full list price," Troup said. "Dale's



Dan Grabski, Rej Troup, Dan Jones and Pat Besecker  
Photos by Kelsee Baker

prices were, at that time, roughly 40 percent less than anyone else's."

In 1985, the shop moved to its current location, a renovated, two-bedroom blue house just off of Jonestown Road, behind a strip of commercial properties. Grass-lined sidewalks separate the neighboring homes from the quiet street. Most of the traffic is made up of cars going in and out of the small parking lot in front of Dale's. A large sign in the shape of a cymbal hangs over the door.

The late-night tinkering in the original basement shop continued in the new location, where many late nights were spent renovating the house, preparing displays and getting the shop ready for customers.

"We used to spend evenings here, just like Dale used to in the old place," Troup said. "Rearranging displays, building displays, just trying to make space for one more piece of gear. We still do it but not to that extent."

"I remember stories, you guys would work all night, and then be like, 'Oh, we have to open in an hour and a half!' and then clean up and sell all day," Grabski said. "And then you'd have to go back and do it again at night."

Perhaps the most interesting piece of Dale's history comes from the equipment itself. While he was on the road with Buddy Rich, Dale had amassed a collection of equipment that once belonged to the drummer.

Buddy Rich was an American jazz drummer and bandleader. Known for his innovative techniques, versatility and precision, he was heralded as one of the greatest drummers ever to have lived.

Much of the shop's original merchandise had belonged to Rich, though Dale never advertised this fact. It was like selling a guitar that once belonged to

Eddie Van Halen, or cleats that belonged to Barry Sanders, and never telling your customers.

"That's the difference between this shop and any other shop," Grabski said. "If it was any other shop owner, he would've been selling himself, saying 'You know who I am, look at what I have,' and Dale is the complete opposite. He wants to cut you a great deal, and it's about you, not him."

In keeping with the sign over the counter, customer service is first and foremost at Dale's Drum Shop. Whether you buy a huge drum kit, a pair of sticks or nothing at all, the staff is glad you came. Grabski believes the keys to their success are never being satisfied and always striving to make the shop better. It helps when your staff is made up of real-deal drummers, and better yet, real-deal drummers who are all friends.

"I think that's what sets us apart from other retailers," Grabski said. "At night, you're either gigging, working on your personal equipment, or you're staying here and working late. It's not just reading out of a book and studying it. We're actually into it and interested in it for our own needs and know it for our customers."

This small, close-knit team takes pride in the shop they work in, literally day and night. It's a family affair, and, when you're at Dale's, you are a part of it.

"This isn't just a hobby for us," Troup said. "This supports a lot of families. We care about the gear we sell, and we care about the people buying it. I think that's what keeps us getting better." **B**

*Dale's Drum Shop is located at 4440 Fritchey St., Harrisburg. For more information, call 717-652-2466 or visit [www.dalesdrumshop.com](http://www.dalesdrumshop.com).*





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# LIVIN' THE CREAM

## *Pastries rise to the top at Brew Cumberland's Best.*

BY REBECCA HANLON

**L**aurel Weiser never wanted to work for someone else.

After finishing school and moving back to her hometown of Grantville, the pastry chef took jobs as a baker, first at the Hilton Harrisburg and later at the Hershey Hotel.

While she enjoyed the work, she dreamed of creating her own recipes and running her own business. Just when she felt she might be stuck as someone else's employee, a speck of hope appeared at the end of her rolling pin.

Weiser's aunt, Vicky, wanted to retire from Bridge Street Coffee Shop, the New Cumberland fixture she owned for about 15 years. Weiser decided it would be the perfect time for her to make a jump. After working alongside her aunt for several weeks, she officially took over the shop on Sept. 1.

"It suddenly felt like everything I had worked for would be worth it," she said.

Weiser's family helped her put her own touches on the shop décor, and she renamed it Brew Cumberland's Best (pun totally intended). But new paint on the walls and a different furniture arrangement was just an aesthetic change. Bigger things were going on inside the kitchen.

A new espresso grinder and fresh roasted coffee beans delivered each week from Mosaic Coffee Company in Shippensburg were one part of a two-part menu redesign Weiser had in mind.

"A lot of places can offer you just one thing—either great tasting coffee or a great tasting pastry," Weiser said. "They specialize in one thing, but I want to make sure we're the best of both."

When Weiser isn't out front making specialty coffee drinks for regular customers, she's back in the kitchen. It's there that she finds the freedom to explore recipes she never had the chance to tackle when she worked in other places.

Her daily baked scones and muffins, most recently created with fall flavors apple cider and pumpkin roll, are her biggest sellers. Brownies and peanut butter pie are close seconds, but she soon hopes to break into more sweet breads, as well as cinnamon rolls, cheesecake and other desserts.

"I can do whatever I'm in the mood to do," Weiser said of her creations. "The special thing to me is being able to see people's reactions when they eat my food. I was always stuck in the back of a kitchen, making the same recipes every day. There's something very unique to getting immediate feedback from people who eat what you create."

The young business owner has big plans for her new endeavor. She hopes to eventually offer live music and have local art displayed on the walls.

"I really want to immerse myself in this community," she said.

Meredith Brewster, who stopped into the coffee shop recently, said she happened to be passing through and needed something to get her through the rest of her day.

The Lower Paxton Township woman munched on a panini and snuck a scone into her purse for later.

"I never go to the big name coffee shops," she said. "For me, the great thing about this area is that there are so many independent businesses. I always try to help them—especially when they make stuff as delicious as this."

Jeremy Lewis of Harrisburg was on his way between business meetings when he decided to use the drive-thru for a late lunch the same day.

"I've come here a few times, always for the coffee," he said. "When I find a place that makes a good cup, it becomes a regular stop for me."

The comments of happily fed customers keep Weiser inspired. She's always looking for something new to create, something else she can improve and another customer she can please.

"I'm exhausted every day, but I don't think I've ever been so happy," she said. "I'm learning a lot, and I have a lot of areas to grow in, but I'm happy to be on this path. I think great things are going to happen." **B**

*Brew Cumberland's Best is at 1903 Bridge St. in New Cumberland. Hours are Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 717-774-6511 or search for "Brew Cumberland's Best" on Facebook.*

*Photo by Kelsee Baker.*



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It was November 2007, and Jenn Knepper started to dread the approaching cycle of shopping, gift wrapping and handing off another unneeded trinket in the spirit of Christmas.

The Hershey Medical Center nurse took a break from a long shift to browse the local newspaper when she read a story about a giving circle in Harrisburg. This small group of women would gather each holiday season to purchase items for charities in the name of a loved one.

"It seemed like the perfect way to give meaning to a holiday that had, sadly, started to lose that for me," Knepper said.

She contacted the group, and, over the next several years, it soon would join forces with Gifts that Give Hope, an umbrella organization that provides the tools for people to organize gift fairs during the season.

Knepper's desire to make the holidays more meaningful isn't a new concept.

Nonprofit organizations throughout the region have been noticing a trend in charitable donations being made in place of the purchase of a physical gift.

"A lot of us feel like, 'Oh, what do you get the person who has everything?'" Knepper said. "Your mom doesn't need another sweater. Your dad doesn't need another tie. My family is always telling me they don't need more stuff."

While the Gifts that Give Hope Fair is hosted in Lancaster County the week before Thanksgiving, there are still many opportunities for people to find local organizations to which they can contribute.

#### HANDS-ON GIFTS

For people who want to do more than donate money, there are several organizations that ask people to be more hands-on.

Kat Prickett, 31, of Mount Joy has been a volunteer with Operation Christmas Child, a charity run by Samaritan's Purse, since she was 11 years old. Her mom became a project leader at the family's church, and, together, they'd fill shoeboxes with toothbrushes, school supplies and coloring pages to send to children in need.

Today, Operation Christmas Child has 19 drop-off locations in central Pennsylvania where people can take their stocked shoeboxes to be shipped to boys and girls around the world.

Last year, 31,571 boxes were collected in this area alone, said Prickett, who now works as an area spokesperson for the organization.

"Usually, the children who receive a box are getting the first gift they've ever received in their whole life," she said. "For a child to know someone across the world is thinking of them, cares about them and loves them, that's amazing."

A lot of families make filling the boxes an annual tradition, getting their kids to buy items for children their own age and explaining how not everyone has the same comforts in life, Prickett said.

David LoBianco, children's ministry director at Devonshire Church in Lower Paxton Township, has helped host a shoebox-packing party the past two years.

Stations are set up in the church for families to take part in the project, whether it's wrapping the boxes in gift paper, sorting items based on age group or writing a note to the recipient.

"Part of the goal is showing God's love in a tangible way," LoBianco said. "We feel that we can reach people through actions, and that's what this is about."

The church put together 78 boxes last year and hoped to do the same in 2014.

"It shows our children that they can serve the community, or help people around the world, just by being little members of the church," he said. "You can see how much it means to them to help out."

#### DONATING DIRECTLY

Those who want to see their donation dollars go directly to work in the local community can take part in a new holiday program offered by Harrisburg's Habitat for Humanity.

Executive Director Bill Wood said the organization usually does a drive to ask for cash donations during the holiday season, but he came up with a different idea this year so that people can do so in the name of a loved one.

During November and December, those who wish to give to the Greater Harrisburg Area's ReStore can make a cash donation or purchase a gift card for future construction items in honor of friends or family.

Donors of \$25 or \$50 are provided with a tile on which they can write the name of a loved one along with a brief message. ReStore will then collect the tiles and apply them to a backboard that will go on display within the store the third week of December.

Donors also can request a photo of the tile be posted on Facebook, so they can tag their loved one, Wood said.

Those who give \$100 will be given a clean, 2-by-4-foot stud on which they can write a similar message. The stud will then be used in a new or remodeled home in 2015. The larger of the three donation amounts also comes with a donor Facebook post, a Habitat for Humanity water bottle and a three-pack of mechanic's gloves to use as a stocking stuffer.

Gifts cards to Lowe's, Home Depot, Staples or other hardware or office supply stores also will be accepted, Wood added.

"Gift cards are awesome because they subsidize our budget," Wood said. "We might be working on a home and find we need more trim.

Being able to make a run to the hardware store to buy that, and not worry about where the money is coming from, is a huge help."

Volunteering with the organization, either as a family or individual, is also a great way to do a service project in someone's honor, he said.

"Many people don't realize we have needs outside of construction work," Wood said. "I've been looking for someone to come in here and hook up a fax machine. Sometimes, we have simple things like that, where someone with basic IT skills can come in and provide a big service to us."

Wood hopes the display of tiles and construction studs in future projects will help encourage people to reach out to the community.

"It's nice to see people who live in the Harrisburg area helping their neighbors," Wood said. "Even if they can't directly be on-site or physically do much for us, there's satisfaction in doing whatever you can for the people around you." **B**



## NOT ANOTHER NECKTIE

*Instead of traditional gift-giving, some decide to contribute to charity.*

BY REBECCA HANLON



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(Must pre-register)

- December 1st - 31st - Christmas Carols & Holiday Performances throughout the Holiday Season\*
- Sunday, Dec. 7th - Traveling Carolers 12PM - 2PM
- Thursday, Dec. 11th - Lawnton & Paxtang Select Chorus and Chime Choir 6:30PM - 7:30PM
- Friday, Dec. 12th - Bishop McDevitt High School Choir 11:30AM - 12:30PM  
Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Elementary School Choir 1:45PM - 2:30PM
- Saturday, Dec. 13th - York County Gospel Choir 12PM - 1PM
- Saturday, Dec. 20th - Glad Tidings Assembly of God Choir 12PM - 1PM  
"The Reindeer Gift" Book Reading & Author Signing 1PM - 2PM (Children's Play Area)
- Sunday, Dec. 21st - Mountain View Elementary School Hand Chime Ensemble 1:30PM - 2:30PM
- Monday, Dec. 22nd - Central Dauphin East High School Choir 11:30AM - 12:30PM

\*Additional performances will be scheduled | Above scheduled choir performances will be located in Food Court  
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A night photograph of a Christmas festival. In the foreground, a crowd of people is blurred, their faces and heads catching the warm, golden light of the festival. The background shows bare trees and a dark sky with a thin crescent moon. Festive lights, including strings of warm white lights and larger, star-shaped light decorations, are visible throughout the scene, creating a magical and cozy atmosphere.

# CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY

*Looking for an old-time holiday? Pack up your sleigh and head north.*

BY DON HELIN

Remember how amazing it was as a youngster to experience the music, colorful lights and tasty food of the holidays—and then those presents waiting under the tree?

This season, you can rekindle those memories and share some of that lost excitement with your own family. Not too far from Harrisburg, you can enjoy an ice festival, a traditional German Christmas, a walk with holiday lights and special, handcrafted presents.

An old-time Christmas is just a short drive away.

#### MAGICAL EVENING.

For the past 18 years, the State College Ice Sculptors have wowed audiences in Lewistown, and this year will be no different. On Dec. 4 and 5, your family can watch professional ice carvers turn solid blocks of ice into works of art using chisels, chainsaws and blow torches.

“Our theme this year will be a ‘Vintage Christmas,’ and we begin with our annual crazy parade,” said festival coordinator Jenny Landis of the Juniata River Valley Visitors Bureau. “The procession kicks off at 6 o’clock sharp from St. John’s Church, and we’ll walk/march/hop/skip down N. Main Street with noisemakers,

dancing ribbons and papier mache puppets on sticks. It’s fun!”

The Festival of Ice is held in Monument Square directly in front of the historic Mifflin County Courthouse. In addition to the sculptors and power tools, there’s entertainment, a holiday market, crafts and food.

“With the holiday music and the lights reflecting from the ice sculptures, it’s truly a magical evening,” said Landis.

Pony rides and a petting zoo will entertain the younger set, as will cookie decorating, carnival games and letter-writing to Santa. The empty lot near the courthouse will be transformed into a live nativity scene, including an ancient market with activities in each of the stalls. To help set the mood, the Beth-El choir from the Mennonite Church in Belleville will perform holiday music each evening.

For a unique memory, you can treat your family to a tour of downtown Lewistown from the back of a horse-drawn carriage. Rides are \$3 per person, free for children five and under. All money raised will be donated to local charities. For model train buffs, the Mifflin County Model Railroad Club train display will set up in the

lower level of the building next to the courthouse.

Of course, no Christmas festival would be complete without an opportunity to meet Santa, who will greet visitors and take gift requests at the West Side Gallery. Be sure to stop in and exchange a ho-ho-ho.

#### ARTISTIC TWIST

Later that weekend, the Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA) will offer holiday fun at both of its locations in Newport—the Landis House and the PCCA Gallery.

“It’s a great time to be in a small town with all of the cute shops and holiday decorations,” said PCCA Creative Programs Director Jasmine Colbert. “A shopping day here is like an adventure to seek out one-of-a-kind gifts. And you can support local businesses at the same time.”

First, visit the newly remodeled Landis House (67 N. 4th St., Newport) for a special holiday family outing. Local music teachers will feature their students in a holiday piano recital, and Santa will visit to share cookies.

At the PCCA Gallery on the square (1 S. 2nd St., Newport), you can shop the Artisan Marketplace, where you will find unique and locally made holiday gifts.





Entrance to Christkindl Market



Pyramid at Christkindl Market



Mifflin County Courthouse

While in the gallery, you can visit with demonstrating artists, get signed copies of local authors' books and enjoy light refreshments.

Be sure to fortify yourself with a warm beverage and a snack at Espresso Yourself before checking out the annual Newport tree lighting at 5 p.m. on the square.

#### GERMAN CHRISTMAS

Your next adventure, the following weekend, is to downtown Mifflinburg, which will be lined with festive huts featuring unique handmade crafts and traditional treats for Christkindl Market, a traditional German holiday celebration.

Founders Joannah Skucek and her late husband Rudi lived in Germany for 20 years before returning to her hometown, where she opened a business. One day, at a meeting of town merchants, the conversation turned to how to draw visitors to Mifflinburg.

"How about a Christkindl market?" Joannah suggested. "Everyone looked at Rudi and me and asked, 'A what?'"

Christkindl markets began in Germany in 1434. Local craftsmen and food vendors found that, if they set up their wares around the town's churches during Christmas activities, the public would buy their goods to eat and give as gifts.

The first year, the Mifflinburg Christkindl Market had about 20 vendors located around the many local churches.

"Through our volunteers' hard work and Rudi's charismatic leadership, our market is now the oldest authentic outdoor German Christkindl market in the United States," explained Joannah. "Last year was our silver anniversary, and the market had an estimated 12,000 visitors to our 100 vendors."

The celebration opens with a parade featuring St. Nicholas riding his white horse. Then, over three days, people browse through picturesque huts filled with Christkindl treats and unique handmade crafts.

Be sure to dress warmly. Last year, my wife and I visited on an extremely cold day, which marred our ability to spend much time outdoors. Fortunately, there's a pub where you can warm up with a glass of Glühwein (glow wine) in a specially designed collector's mug. You also can enjoy hearty German beer along with Hungarian goulash and a variety of German sausages.

For treats, there are gourmet coffees and hot mulled cider to drink with Christmas cookies and the traditional German lebkuchen (gingerbread) hearts. An outdoor stage is located across from the Christkindl Pub, where you'll see continuous entertainment, including dancers, school musical groups and jugglers.

There is plenty of fun for little ones, too. In Kinder World, children can visit the Elf School to solve puzzles and meet Mrs. Claus. Inside the Gingerbread House, they'll see the "Gingerbread Family" decorating the Christmas tree and watch "Mother Gingerbread" make cookies. At the Peek-A-Boo Doll House, kids can watch dolls and teddy bears having a tea party around the Christmas tree as they hang stockings to the music of the holidays.

Planners work to balance tradition with new ideas.

"Our criterion is simple," Joannah said. "If we want to add something new, we ask ourselves, 'Would they do it in Germany?' For example, I was asked one year where visitors can find a traditional German breakfast. I thought, 'Now that's a good idea.' So, we worked with one of the local churches to sponsor a German breakfast."

Don't forget to bring your holiday greeting cards.

"It's an Austrian tradition," Joannah said. "Visitors can make their greetings unique by having a Christkindl cancellation stamp placed on holiday cards at the Christkindl Corner."

The special, pictorial cancellation stamp, designed by a local artist, changes each year. So, you can start your collection this season.

#### CHRISTMAS TRAIL

Rounding out the season, Little Buffalo State Park will open its weeklong Christmas Trail on Dec. 17. There, children can meet Santa, see thousands of lights and enjoy handcrafted wooden figures.

"The Christmas Trail is at least 30 years old and has become a tradition for many families," said Ben Ranney, who coordinates the program.

Local school districts participate by bringing their choirs or vocal groups to perform on the Moore Pavilion stage. 4-H clubs will sell hot chocolate and treats at the warming station.

"The lights along the wooded trails, the holiday music, the excitement of the children all meld together to create a beautiful and festive mood," said Ranney. "It's very special."

There you have it—four celebrations over three weekends, all a relatively short drive out of the city. This holiday season, it will be easy to enjoy Christmas in the country. **B**

*Don Helin published his first thriller, "Thy Kingdom Come," in 2009. His recently published novel, "Devil's Den," has been selected as a finalist in the Indie Book Awards. His latest thriller, "Secret Assault," was published in November. Contact Don on his website, [www.donhelin.com](http://www.donhelin.com).*

*Photos by David Cooney Photography and Jill Haubrick.*

#### GOING THERE

##### *The Festival of Ice*

is located on Monument Square in downtown Lewistown on Thursday, Dec. 4, 6 to 9 p.m., and Friday, Dec. 5, 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, visit [juniatarivervalley.org](http://juniatarivervalley.org) or call 717-248-6713.

##### *PCCA's Holiday Shopping and Music*

takes place in downtown Newport on Saturday, Dec. 6. For more information, visit [www.perrycountyarts.org](http://www.perrycountyarts.org) or call 717-567-7023.

##### *The Mifflinburg Christkindl Market*

hours are Thursday, Dec. 11, 4:30 to 9 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 12, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The market is located on Market Street between 4th and 6th streets in Mifflinburg. For more information, visit [www.MifflinburgChristkindlMarket.com](http://www.MifflinburgChristkindlMarket.com).

##### *The Little Buffalo Christmas Trail*

will be open from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23, 6 to 9 p.m., in the park's East Picnic area. The program is free and flashlights are helpful in some areas of the trail. Contact the park at 717-567-9255 or email [littlebuffsp@state.pa.us](mailto:littlebuffsp@state.pa.us).



# CHRISTMAS MOURNING

*The holidays often bring great joy.  
But for those suffering through  
grief, the season may  
magnify their loss.*

BY SUSAN RYDER

Cooler, shorter days and falling leaves usher in the trifecta of holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s. Anticipation of friends, family, food and fun takes center stage. It’s not, however, the “Most Wonderful Time of the Year” for some folks.

Five years ago in November, then-fourth grader Cara Ford lost her father. Six weeks later, on New Year’s Day, Cara and her mother Theresa lost Kyle—15-year-old brother and son. To say that the holiday season is painful for them would be an understatement.

Theresa Ford said that, when November rolls around, they think, “Oh, it’s November; we wish it was February.”

We are “sold a picture of perfection, of what could be and should be,” said John Kajic, manager of the Highmark Caring Place, a Center for Grieving Children, in Lemoyne. These expectations, he said, “reinforce a profound sense of grief.”

Indeed, the holidays can make mourning even more difficult, said Susan Resavy, director of family services at the Hospice of Central Pennsylvania, located in Susquehanna Township.

The holidays are filled with ritual, tradition and expectation. So, when a person who is a part of the tradition dies, the loss is magnified, she said.

What that heightened grief looks like “depends on how that person has coped all along,” said Resavy. If they have been quiet, they could be more quiet; if intensely sad, they could be more tearful; and if anxiety-filled, even more anxious.

## EMPTY SEAT

For Joy Gardner of Carlisle, husband Bob should have been with her this Thanksgiving, but she lost her beloved to cancer on Sept. 18, 2013.

“He was born on a Wednesday and died on a Wednesday,” she said, still reeling from the loss. Seeing the empty seat at the table proved to be too much. The family chose to eat out for Thanksgiving this year.

Gardner suggests it’s a good idea to “change it up” to better cope over the holidays.

Part of that change involves having a plan. Resavy said that families should ask the question, “How do you want to deal with the holiday?”

Kajic echoes Resavy’s sentiment, saying that families need to have a discussion. While families talk, they also need to keep in mind that there is no rulebook—no right or wrong way to grieve.

Angela Mesceda of Linglestown had a strategy for the holidays. She lost her husband James in March 2012, so decided to make a plan to better cope. That, however, didn’t go as well as she hoped.

“My plan went to hell in a hand basket because I cried all day,” she said.

Nonetheless, she advises making a specific list of

what you want to do. “Once you do it, you feel the accomplishment,” she said.

Part of that plan may include choosing not to participate in some traditions. Individuals and families may decide not to have a tree, light the menorah or have a Thanksgiving turkey.

The Ford family discusses every year how they will celebrate. The first Christmas after Kyle died, they decided to forgo a tree, then, gradually, over the next five years, began decorating again.

Because tree decorating was a family affair, they don’t dig into the old Christmas ornaments. Instead, they have a new theme each year and remember Kyle by buying an ornament for him.

While this works for them, Theresa Ford wouldn’t insist that people handle their grief exactly the same way. “Grief is so different for everybody,” she said. “Do what you feel is right at the moment.”

Gardner acknowledged that her family showed a great deal of variety in how they grieved. Family members spent a lot of time crying last year, but noted that, “sometimes we weren’t crying all together.” Also, since her husband died just a few months before the holidays, she didn’t change the ritual much the first year.

Often, families are in such shock that the first holidays go by in a blur, so “don’t be alarmed if year two is harder than year one,” said Resavy.

## REAL MEANING

Traditions can still hold a place in grieving. The stability and familiarity of an old tradition may be great comfort to a grieving family. In addition, new traditions can be created that include the deceased in the holiday. This can happen through making a toast at dinner, buying an ornament for the tree or preparing a favorite meal.

“If you find comfort in traditions, hold on to them,” said Kajic.

Finding ways to include the deceased family member also provides segue for discussion. People often don’t know how to bring up the deceased person and aren’t sure if they should say their name for fear of upsetting others.

“It gives people an opportunity to reminisce,” said Resavy.

She recounted a story of how the grandchildren of a deceased hospice client took it upon themselves to put pictures they created of their grandpa on “his” chair at Thanksgiving. That then became the family’s new Thanksgiving ritual.

Luckily, these families didn’t have to traverse the road of grief alone. Both Hospice of Central Pennsylvania and Highmark Caring Place helped. “Hospice people are wonderful people—angels,” said Mesceda.

“It was like we were all a big family,” said Cara Ford, who twice participated in Highmark Caring Place’s program.

Although much help is available, families still may acutely feel grief, but often there is hope mixed in. Theresa Ford said that her family discusses how to handle the holidays.

“But, mostly importantly, we try to focus on what Christmas really means and how truly blessed we are in so many ways,” she said. “Don’t get me wrong—there is still a lot of crying that goes on in our house. I don’t think this will ever go away.” **B**

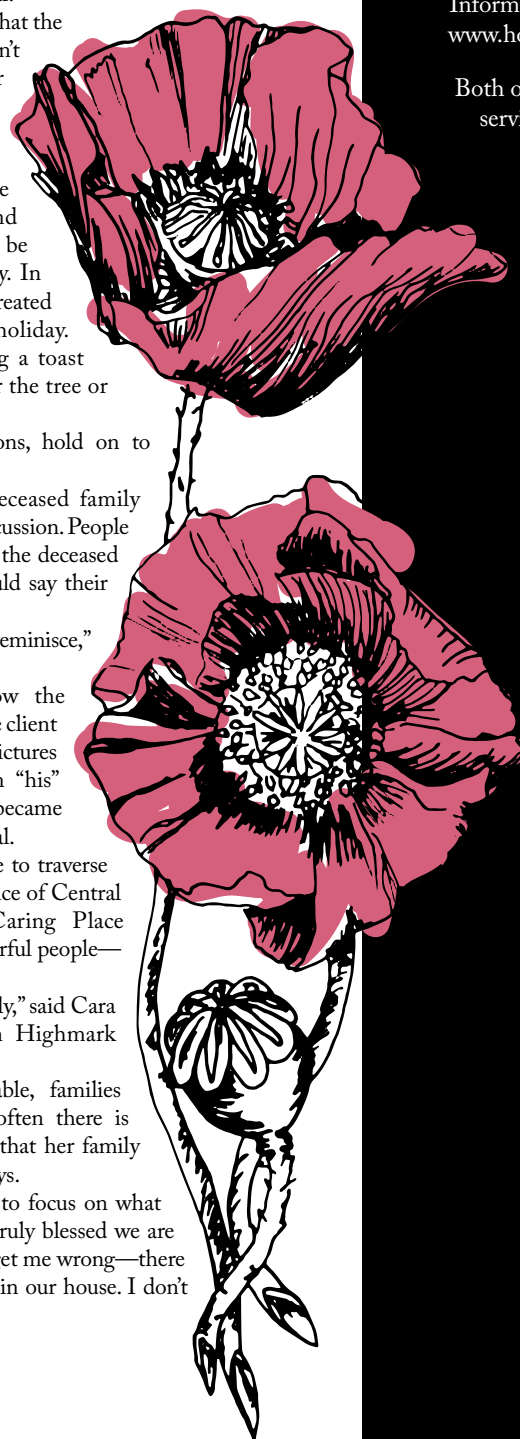
## Seeking Help

Resources are available if you or someone you know needs help getting through the holiday due to the death of a loved one.

Highmark Caring Place offers grief services for families with children. Its website, [www.highmarkcaringplace.com](http://www.highmarkcaringplace.com), contains information specific to coping with the holidays.

Hospice of Central Pennsylvania also offers grief services, which are available to everyone, not just those served by the hospice. Information can be found at [www.hospiceofcentralpa.org](http://www.hospiceofcentralpa.org).

Both organizations provide services free of charge.





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# CHRISTMAS CITY

Bethlehem shines brightly during the holiday season.

BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER



It's hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. Too often, we feel so rushed that we forget how important it is to take time out to enjoy the beauty of the season.

Sometimes, a short trip out of town is just what we need to recharge our batteries. While many opt for New York this time of year, I prefer Bethlehem for a less harried, more laid-back experience.

The small, walkable town of Bethlehem, also known as “Christmas City,” is all decked out in its Christmas finery this time of year, and there are plenty of activities scheduled for the weeks ahead.

## CHRISTMAS—AND MORE

Rich in history, Bethlehem is home to several excellent sites, some of which hold special events and exhibits during the holidays.

If you've never seen a “live advent calendar,” you'll want to set your clocks for 5 p.m. and visit the John Sebastian Goundie House on Main Street. The restored, federal-style house dates to 1810 and was once home to the local brewer. Today, it is a house museum and, every evening through Dec. 23, a town crier will select a child from the crowd to knock on the door, which will open to some form of entertainment.

“It could be a quartet, Dickens-style carolers or even bagpipers,” said Kelly Ronalds, marketing director of the historic Hotel Bethlehem.

After the performance, merchants will hand out treats to the children.

Fans of crafts, local history and architecture should check out the Gemein Haus, located on Church Street. This log cabin, built without nails, once served as a Moravian church and is now a museum of Moravian history, featuring furniture, art, toys and crafts. At the same address, you'll find the Moravian Museum of Bethlehem. Built in 1752, this structure was originally an apothecary. Today, guests visit to learn about the lifestyle of early settlers.



Nearby, the Moravian Book Shop, established in 1745, is known as the oldest continuously operating bookstore in the world. Bethlehem native Marlena Sarunac said it's a popular destination for bibliophiles and history lovers.

"The Moravian Book Shop is exactly the type of place where you can find yourself dreamily spending hours," she said, adding that ornaments and gifts of every kind are also available this time of year.

### GET YOUR SHOP ON

While you're downtown, a variety of boutique shops, many of which have been there for years, are just a short walk away.

"You can smell the history as you step in and hear it in the creaks of the beautiful old floorboards," Sarunac said.

Of course, no holiday visit would be complete without visiting the Christmas City Village downtown, where dozens of vendors set up shop in festively decorated, heated huts from Dec. 19 to 23. There, you'll find a variety of items ranging from woodcarvings and pottery to homemade soap and Christmas decorations.

Drawing visitors from miles around, Bethlehem's Christkindlmarkt has been recognized by Travel and Leisure Magazine as one of the top holiday markets in the world. This year, 125 artisans will showcase their wares. The family-friendly event will feature food, pictures with Santa, musical entertainment and demonstrations every Thursday through Sunday until Dec. 21.

### TOURS GALORE

Bethlehem has no shortage of guides dressed in period garb to regale visitors with historic tidbits.

The "Christmas City Stroll" takes guests on a walking tour through downtown, where they will learn the story of the city's unique beginning in 1741. Horse-drawn carriage tours are also available for those who prefer to sit back, relax and take in the city's 18th-century architecture, while learning about the area's 300-year history.

After dark, holiday decorations light up the town. Book the "Bethlehem by Night" bus tour and stay warm and cozy while enjoying the festive holiday decorations and a trip to the Moravian star atop South Mountain.

### STAYING OVER

The Hotel Bethlehem, perhaps the city's best-known hotel, is a great choice if you want to be in the heart of the action. The decorations alone are sure to put a smile on any Scrooge's face.

Ronalds said the hotel is already decorated for the season with 26 Christmas trees, 36 giant wreaths, six 7-foot toy soldiers and a large crèche.

"People come here from all over the mid-Atlantic region to get their Christmas spirit," she said.

If you don't mind staying a few blocks away, the 100-year-old Sayre Mansion Inn is another great choice. This elegant boutique hotel offers bright, spacious rooms and daily breakfast and is a quiet and luxurious respite from the hustle and bustle.

Many eateries are within walking distance of both

hotels. The award-winning Apollo Grill is a good choice for lunch or dinner. Whether you're in the mood for crab cakes, lamb shank, duck, veal, steaks or just a burger, this place has you covered.

If you're a craft beer enthusiast, be sure stop in at the Bethlehem Brew Works on Main, which offers casual fare, along with a wide selection of craft brews.

There's so much more to do and see in Bethlehem during the holidays. If you have yet to visit during this magical season, you might want to take time now to schedule a long weekend to see everything the area has to offer.

"The most wonderful thing about Bethlehem is that it doesn't matter what religion you identify with, how old or young you are, or whether you've seen it all 100 times, or for the first time," said Sarunac. "The spirit of the town will delight you every time, and each fresh snowfall brings with it a sense of peace that's hard to capture elsewhere." **B**

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*For more information on Christmastime in Bethlehem, visit [www.christmascity.org](http://www.christmascity.org).*

*Photos courtesy of Discover Lehigh Valley.*







## GROWN-UP GIFTING

*A holiday guide for some of the hottest wines & best deals.*

BY STEVE JULIANA

When we were kids, we often judged our holiday presents by their shapes. Scanning the bounty under the tree, we zeroed in on the biggest boxes, believing that they might hold the best gifts.

As adults, we still look for the most promising packages. However, many of us now desire those long, rectangular boxes that just may hold something special for us to drink.

In that spirit, I attended a Chairman's Selection Tasting last month sponsored by Fine Wine & Good Spirits, an event held just in time for the holiday-giving season.

I consider myself very fortunate to be able to preview these wines, see what is in store for us, and share my impressions with you.

During the tasting, we were guided through the different quaffs by Steve Pollack, the buyer for the Chairman's Selection program, who pointed out nuances and characteristics in each bottle. The five other people at the table made for a good sounding board and lively debate as wine is very subjective.

These wines are here just in time for the holidays, either as gifts for a special someone or to help with the myriad of celebrations. I hope that my tasting notes will help guide you as you pick out that special bottle or two during this festive month.

Keep sipping, Steve.

### RED WINE

- *J. Hofstatter Pinot Nero DOC Meczan 2012*, code 33586, \$13.99: Pinot Noir from Italy done in a light elegant style. Burgundian in weight.
- *Domaine Sainte-Eugenie Corbieres Rouge 2011*, code 33638, \$8.99: Carignan-dominated easy-drinking wine from southwest France.
- *Pat Paulsen Vineyards Primitivo 2012*, code 33649, \$10.99: Subtle Zinfandel wearing its Italian moniker from California.
- *Asio Otus 2012*, code 33692, \$11.99: Fruity, easy-drinking French blend from east Italy. Latin name of a long-eared owl.
- *Gloria Ferrer Merlot Carneros 2009*, code 33620, \$15.99: Mature, delicious wine says this grape is back. Fruity and elegant.
- *Vignamaggio Castello di Monna Lisa Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG 2009*, code 33606, \$24.99: A truly exquisite, classic expression of Sangiovese to drink now.
- *Rivera Il Falcone Castel del Monte Riserva 2008*, code 33601, \$17.99: Beautiful Puglian wine and a chance to drink Nero di Troia, an ancient Italian grape.
- *Le Gravillas Gigondas Les Dentelles 2012*, code 33674, \$18.99: Grenache-based quaff with richness and complexity. Lay this one down.
- *B.R. Cohn Cabernet Sauvignon Olive Hill Estate Vineyards 2010*, code 33580, \$34.99: Rich, dense Cali Cab that doesn't come from Napa. Big and dark.
- *Piccini Brunello di Montalcino Villa al Cortile 2009*, code 33581, \$29.99: Mature fruit-filled Tuscan classic. Wonderful Sangiovese.

### SPARKLING WINE

- *Decelle Brut Champagne NV*, code 33599, \$29.99: Tart, citrusy, bubbly. A genuine bargain.
- *Alfred Gratien Brut Champagne NV*, code 33609, \$39.99: A classic wine. Dry, yeasty and clean with all three of the designated grapes.
- *Herbert Beaufort Brut Champagne Bouzy Grand Cru Carte d'Or NV*, code 33675, \$32.99: Wonderful, fruit-forward sparkler, mainly Pinot Noir. My pick.

### WHITE WINE

- *Terra da Vino Masseria Dei Carmelitani Gavi di Gavi DOCG 2013*, code 33699, \$12.99: Citrusy, clean-tasting palate-scrubber from the Italian Piedmont. Tasty.
- *Sterling Vineyards Malvasia Bianca Cellars Club 2013*, code 33656, \$8.99: Spicy, zingy wine made from an Italian grape that found its way to California.
- *Michele Chiarlo Moscato D'Asti DOCG Nivole 2013*, code 33641, \$8.99: Delicious dessert wine with low alcohol and huge, clean sweetness from Italy. **B**

## FINE WINE & GOOD SPIRITS



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*Tart, citrusy, bubbly. A genuine bargain.*

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*Domaine la Croix d'Aline*  
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*For a complete list of Chairman's Selection products, visit [www.FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com](http://www.FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com)*



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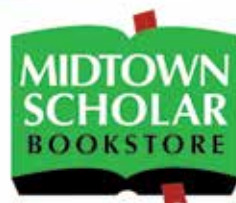


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# HARVEST TIME

*New farm-to-table helps satisfy the midstate's growing appetite for fresh, local.*

BY ALEXIS DOW CAMPBELL



Two o'clock is generally pretty quiet in a restaurant.

The big lunch rush is done; staff is busy preparing for dinner. This is not the case at Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar, a farm-to-table restaurant that opened after much anticipation in the Shoppes at Susquehanna in August.

I walked through the doors expecting the usual mid-afternoon restaurant calm, but was greeted by an energized atmosphere and insanely delicious smells.

The Harrisburg location is the fourth Harvest opened by Philadelphia-based restaurateur Dave Magrogan, whose other restaurants include Dave & Anthony's Stella Rossi Ristorante, Doc Magrogan's Oyster House and Kildare's Irish Pub. When I asked Magrogan why he decided to open a farm-to-table restaurant, I was honestly surprised by his answer.

"Well, before I got into the restaurant business, I used to be a chiropractor," he said. "So, I learned a lot about health and nutrition and processed foods, and I saw a real blank space for this type of restaurant in the industry. Most farm-to-table restaurants are smaller, but I thought, 'why can't there be a healthful chain?'"

So Magrogan opened the first Harvest in Glen Mills in 2010 to great acclaim. All of Magrogan's other restaurants are in Philadelphia or the surrounding area. So why was Harrisburg a good spot for the next location?

"There were a lot of reasons," he said, "but the most attractive thing was the proximity to farms and farmers. Also, there are lots of great restaurants in the city of Harrisburg, but not as many as you move outside the city. The opportunity was clear."

Harvest's menu changes seasonally, and nearly everything (including dessert!) is 500 calories or fewer, made with locally sourced, fresh ingredients. Items more than 500 calories are marked with a little plus sign, and are, of course, also locally sourced and fresh.

The menu changes seasonally, and I mean the *whole* menu: the food, desserts and many of the drinks switch up every three months.

"We try to change it as close to the beginning of the new season as possible," explained Gary Grasela, Harvest Harrisburg's general manager.

Harvest has partnered with 12 local farms to provide meat, produce, dairy, vegetables, even honey for its menu. The day that I met Grasela, he had just come from a meeting with Keswick Creamery in Cumberland County. It was a cheese meeting.

"Our proximity to these farmers allows us to dial in deeper to the farm-to-table concept," Grasela explained. "Many of these farmers are willing to deliver. We have so many choices."

Grasela says that among the most popular entrees on the fall menu are the cedar-roasted Atlantic salmon (\$19), coq au vin (\$19) and the filet mignon (\$31). Another highlight is the local cheese plate.

"It has local, raw, grass-fed, cave-aged cheddar from Lancaster that this guy makes by hand," Grasela said. "It's amazing."

If you're looking for something on the lighter side, there are some scrumptious-sounding sandwiches and salads, as well as flatbreads and vegetarian dishes. The portobello "cheese steak" caught my eye, which replaces meat with the steak of 'shrooms (\$11), as did the slow-roasted chicken sandwich (\$10) and the vegan black kale Caesar salad, featuring a mix of lacinato kale and baby spinach, tossed with pickled red onions and herbed breadcrumbs (small \$6, large \$9).

As the mother of a 2-year-old who isn't the most adventurous of eaters (although her favorite food is hummus, which she licks off any vegetable I serve with it), I was excited to see that there is a kid's menu, which includes staples like spaghetti, mini-cheeseburgers and cheese quesadillas.

"My 8-year-old son loves it!" Magrogan told me excitedly when I asked if Harvest was the kind of place where you could bring a kid. "It's his favorite of all of our restaurants. And, I mean, we have a pizza restaurant. Like, a really good pizza restaurant."

So, how's business?

"Really, really good," Grasela told me. "We are the busiest restaurant in the company right now. The crowds have been exceeding expectation."

Looking around Harvest, I saw all sorts: lots of business-y people catching a quick bite, couples, a mom with a toddler, a pair of older ladies (one of whom stopped Grasela on her way out to compliment him on her meal). Grasela said that the demographic is "really hard to pin down."

"We see tons of couples for dates," he said. "Large groups, whether it's a corporate group or a birthday party or something, lots of families on weekends. And, of course, we get lots of shoppers from the stores around us. All of our customers appreciate the options that our menu provides."

And those options are one of the things that Magrogan is most proud of.

"It's great for date night or a business dinner, and you can bring the kids after soccer practice," he said. "I think that we created something that appeals to everyone." **E**

*Harvest Seasonal Grill and Wine Bar is located at the Shoppes at Susquehanna, 2625 Brindle Dr. in Susquehanna Township. More information is at [www.harvestseasonalgrill.com](http://www.harvestseasonalgrill.com) or 717-545-4028.*



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# SCENT OF CHRISTMAS

*Roasted chestnuts offer wonderful holiday smells, tastes.*

BY ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER

Growing up, I knew Christmas was near by several subtle, yet unmistakable, signs at our house.

Plump and fragrant tangerines appeared for dessert. There were savory blanched almonds that my mother tossed in olive oil and salt, roasted in the oven until golden brown and served as a snack or, for some, with a pre-dinner cocktail.

My father dragged out his bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream, a sweet, dark and rich sherry that we drank even before dinner. (That bottle lasted for years.) And then there were chestnuts, a must-have treat for every Christmas holiday. My mother roasted them in the oven for my father, who relished them along with a little sambuca or amaretto for dessert. Even without an "open fire," the smell of chestnuts roasting at home is just as lovely as on the streets of New York City.

Chestnuts have strong ties to Italy where, in centuries past, they were a staple food of peasants. Chestnut harvesting, which was backbreaking work, also provided a livelihood as the nuts were packaged for exporting to other countries. Chestnut groves still cover the hillsides of Tuscany, and little villages celebrate chestnut harvest every fall. They are no longer considered peasant food, rather a coveted ingredient in many Italian dishes and baked goods.

Preparing chestnuts can be rather time-consuming and hard on the hands. But, after trying chestnuts sold in vacuum packs or in jars, I have decided that the taste doesn't even come close to buying the fresh nuts when they are in season. No special equipment is needed, although Williams-Sonoma once sold a chestnut-roasting pan for use over a wood fire. I can't imagine many were sold.

Be picky when you are buying fresh chestnuts. They should be a beautiful, glossy brown, very round and plump. Pass on those that seem to have a crackly space between the outer hard skin and the nut itself,

and avoid those that have a dull or dusty appearance.

To roast chestnuts, place the nuts on a flat surface and, with a small, sharp paring knife, cut an "X" into one side. The goal is to cut through the tough outer skin, but not pierce the "fruit." There is a little disagreement as to which side of the nut should be cut. My mother always cut the flat side, although some recipes advise the rounded side. I think both should work.

## ROASTING CHESTNUTS

There is no set amount of chestnuts to cook at one time. Buy what you think you can eat and that will fit on your rimmed baking sheet. A metal pan is best.

Spread the chestnuts out in a single layer on your baking sheet. There is no need to grease the pan first.

Sprinkle the nuts lightly with water before placing in the oven.

Roast in a pre-heated, 400-degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes, shaking the pan a few times while roasting.


After 15 or 20 minutes, the chestnuts will turn a darker brown and the cuts in the shell will begin to peel back.

When the chestnuts are cool enough to handle, peel away both the brown outer shell and the thinner inner membrane.

Eat and enjoy.

My family used to eat chestnuts while they were still warm, and their wonderful aroma still permeated the kitchen. But you can freeze them for later use or keep them for a few days in the refrigerator.

Chestnuts can be used in so many ways—tossed with brussel sprouts or other green vegetables; in your Christmas stuffing; with pasta (especially gnocchi); and even in soup. And, somewhere out there, an Italian grocer can sell you chestnut flour for baking holiday cakes.

Wishing all TheBurg readers a wonderful holiday. Buon Natale! 

## CHESTNUTS WITH GRAPPA

Here is a traditional Italian way to serve roasted chestnuts at Christmastime. The recipe calls for grappa, a strong and clear after-dinner brandy much like the Greek ouzo. But you could also use regular brandy, amaretto or perhaps even Grand Marnier.

- Roast 1 pound of chestnuts (see main story)
- Toss the cooked chestnuts with:
  - 4 tablespoons grappa
  - 4 tablespoons sugar
  - A tiny pinch of salt
  - 1 teaspoon grated orange zest
- Serve in a little dessert dish

Serve the chestnuts with additional spirits on the side and some vanilla gelato. What could be better than a Tuscan treat at Christmastime?



If you're a Harrisburg foodie, you're in a very happy place right now.

For months, new (and excellent) restaurants have been opening, with even more on the way for early 2015.

The newest arrival categorizes itself as a wine bar/pizzeria, which doesn't quite do it justice since it's so much more than Pinot and pie.

The casual, yet gourmet, eatery, a short stroll from the state Capitol, takes the tapas trend and runs with it. Pizzas, pastas and small plates are all designed to be shared, making this hotspot a haven for socialization.

"Nick tries to bring different things to the city in terms of what we lack," General Manager Josue Osorto said of his boss, Nick Laus.

Laus, who long has had his finger on the pulse of the restaurant scene in Harrisburg, also runs Home 231, Level 2, Café Fresco and Italian Pizza and Subs, which has been a fixture in the area since the 1970s.

The grand opening drew a large crowd to the restaurant, which can be described as cozy without feeling cramped. Wooden tables are placed a comfortable distance apart, providing diners with ample elbowroom and allowing waiters to move about the space unimpeded.

Spherical glass chandeliers illuminate the elegant and tasteful décor, which is done in muted tones of tans and browns. Stainless steel appliances add a modern feel, and floor-to-ceiling windows bring the outside in.

The open pizza kitchen allows patrons seated at the marble bar to work up an appetite as they observe the chef putting the finishing touches on the pizzas and sliding them into the 850-degree oven for the perfect char.

Eight different pizza varieties are available, featuring toppings like fennel sausage and meatballs, along with vegetarian options like mushrooms and pistachio pesto.

Between bites, Chris Leavitt, who lives in Midtown, testified that the margherita pizza was excellent.

"It's not the typical type of pizza you'll find in this area," he said. "The basil was extremely aromatic, the sauce had a nice balance, and you could tell the ingredients were very fresh."



Leavitt's friend, Ryan Riley, who joined Leavitt at the grand opening, agreed.

"One term that is overused, but not understated, is the value of the farm-to-table concept," said Riley, a former president of Harrisburg Young Professionals. "They adhere to that concept, while succeeding in capturing an elegant taste."

The two-sided menu also features salads and small plates, which many choose as starters. Diners can select from four types of salad and a seasonal vegetable plate or indulge in heartier fare like oven-roasted Brussels sprouts, homemade meatballs, eggplant Parmesan, or sweet Italian sausage with kale and cannellini beans, which Leavitt described as "damned tasty."

Friends can mix and match cheeses such as gorgonzola and gouda with meats like sopressata and mortadella to create a custom plate to pair with their choice of wine.

Made-from-scratch pasta is available for those seeking something more substantial, and diners can cater to their cravings without breaking the calorie bank. Five selections range from the hearty pappardelle with pulled pork to the more nuanced shrimp fettucine with shaved asparagus, crushed tomatoes, basil and Parmesan.

When it comes to libations, there's no shortage of choices. One full page of the menu is devoted to red wines, white wines, bottled beers and craft cocktails.

"We paid special attention to the cocktail menu, coming together as staff and developing our list through trial and error," said Osorto.


Riley said his favorite was the mint julep, which exceeded his expectations.

"It was a phenomenal combination of flavors," he said.

Other choices range from the dry blue cheese martini to the sweet berry basil gimlet, and each week the restaurant features a staff pick. To take advantage of seasonal fruit, sangrias and mojitos will change throughout the year so bartenders can work with the freshest ingredients available.

For those who want a more intimate experience, an upstairs space, which seats 22, is available for private parties, and more seating will be available outside when the weather warms up.

Riley, who witnessed the transformation of the space from an empty lot, said it has a "wow" factor to it.

"When you enter the restaurant, you feel like it's on par with any of the high-end restaurants you'll encounter in cities like Philadelphia," he said. "The atmosphere is great and so is the service. I highly recommend it." 

*Cork & Fork is located at 200 State St., Harrisburg. Hours are Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. For more information, call 717-234-8100 or visit the restaurant's Facebook page.*

*Alex Hartzler, TheBurg's publisher, is a partial owner of Cork & Fork.*



## POWER PIE

*Lawmakers, pizza-lovers tuck in at Cork & Fork.*

BY STEPHANIE  
KALINA-METZGER







*Periodically, TheBurg highlights the work of student writers at Penn State Harrisburg. In this issue, we feature two essays and three poems.*

## CHANGING THE CAPTION

BY TAYLOR MELHORN

Chemicals. Molecules. Experiments. The smile on my face broadened as I examined myself in the full-length mirror of my dorm room, trying on my brand-new, crisp-white lab coat. Just the thought of what the next five years would bring added to my excitement as I snapped a picture of myself to post on Facebook, along with the caption, “Chemist in the Making.”

It was really happening. This dream that I had been harboring since I was 6 years old was finally starting to come true. I was an undergrad at Drexel University, earning my bachelor’s degree in chemistry, and there was nothing that would prevent me from achieving my goals.

However, my plan did not unfold exactly as I had anticipated.

It started out perfectly. There I was in Philadelphia, excited as can be, ready to conduct experiments and write

up lab reports. Even the mundane aspects of the field, such as balancing equations and calculating mole conversions, roused my interest. It wasn’t until my A’s morphed into C’s and I found myself constantly staying up all hours of the night that the fear set in and threatened to transform my lifelong dreams into distant memories. Then midterms rolled around, and I knew I was finished.

I spent the majority of that week in tears. Phone calls home were more frequent than ever. My mom was trying to make sense of the situation, my sister told me that all I needed to do was join a sorority and make friends, and my dad, being his usual quiet self, offered no help whatsoever. I was in full-on panic mode. I made rash decisions just to ease my anxiety, including returning home at the end of the semester to enroll in a two-year program at my local community college to become an assistant district attorney, just like Alex Cabot on “Law and Order: SVU.” My mother insisted that I finish the year at Drexel and stop watching so much television.

Despite what I thought was my better judgment, I relented and agreed to remain at Drexel until my final semester ended in June. I still didn’t have a plan, though, and that had me worried just as much as I had been for the previous three weeks. I knew I had to change my major, because there was no way I was going to take the next course in Chemistry, let alone Calculus II and Physics. The damage that would have caused to my GPA would have prevented me from getting accepted into Clown College.

Trying to figure out my future in a matter of days is no easy task, and I wasn’t having much success on my own. I enlisted the help of my family once again, and the vote was unanimous. I printed out the form online and took it directly to my advisor to change my major to English.

Being in the seventh week of 10-week long classes, there weren’t many courses with seats available for me to choose from for my second semester. I must have had a little bit of luck on my side, however, because I was able to enroll in five classes in the Humanities to begin after winter break. With that knowledge, I was finally able to focus on my current schedule and devote all of my strength and willpower to passing my final exams.

With my newfound success, I packed up my suitcases and left Philadelphia

in the rearview mirror. My head was now clear enough to allow me to thoroughly think through a decision, and I enrolled in Penn State Harrisburg to finish my degree. Many factors contributed to my decision, including my change of major and the realization that I could save some much-needed cash if I stayed at home and commuted to school. I started my journey thinking that I needed Drexel to make my dreams come true; I am continuing it with the knowledge that the school doesn’t make me triumphant. I alone make that happen.

A year-and-a-half later, I’m preparing for finals once again. Even though I am no longer studying at Drexel, I am still working on a degree in English, and I am confident that I made the right choice. It was difficult for me to realize that the dream I had spent over a decade striving for was no longer a reality, and, although I have a new dream and new goals, I still sometimes wonder if I would have been able to push through and become the chemist that I always imagined myself to be. I try to push those thoughts out of my head. I know I can’t go back; I have to keep moving forward.

Standing in front of the mirror in my bathroom at home, I run my brush through my hair one more time and apply another coat of mascara to my eyelashes. I am not wearing a lab coat. I am not going to school today to dissect gaseous mixtures or combine ionic compounds. I’m dressed in jeans and a soft cotton tee shirt, and I decide I’m ready for another day of analyzing “The Maid’s Tragedy” and learning about ethics in creative writing. Before I head out the door, I take my cell phone out of my back pocket. I pull up the camera and aim it at the mirror. When the focus sharpens, I smile and press the circular icon on the touchscreen. I slip on a light jacket as I log onto my Facebook account, and I upload the picture I just took. I can no longer caption it with the phrase “Chemist in the Making,” so I come up with a better set of words.

When I arrive at school 20 minutes later, I tap the icon on my phone that is alerting me to the fact that there has been some activity on my profile. The information brings a smile to my face again. Seven people have “liked” the photo I posted, the photo with the caption, “Author in Progress.”

*Taylor Melhorn is an English major at Penn State Harrisburg.*

## ROTISSERIE

Do you ever think of us  
of what we could be  
Such a stupid girl I am  
with pixie stick dreams  
Saccharine decaying teeth  
chattering  
Always near me  
but never truly  
Who am I  
to say such things  
Eyes rolling  
like dripping rotisserie  
Charred  
yet baby pink  
We kid ourselves  
lips spreading  
Hearts heavy in our skulls  
Throbbing truths  
into finger plugged ears

*Cindy Withjack*



# THE PEOPLE'S BRIDGE

BY ALEXANDER CLARK

I served as crew on the Pride of the Susquehanna for three months in 2013. Never much a people person, I happily accepted the extra hours cleaning the engine room instead of serving in my proper capacity as water-bound customer service.

I spent days cleaning, often hanging from the I-beams comprising the ceiling until my inner ear had started to forget the right way round and my up and down began to run crooked to gravity, long after my fingers had gone numb.

Each day, I'd scour and clean and take my breaks on the top deck, enjoying the sweat and oil on my perforated "work" clothes as something so different from the clean white of my cruise uniform.

On one of the indeterminate nights of that fall, six hours after I'd left Capt. Richard with the paddleboat and biked home, past the mostly empty island and over the open grate bridge that used to scare me, I sat, still in those work clothes, staring at the bridge and the darkened outline of a tree that hid from me the lighted dock of the Pride but left the brighter outline of the bridge unobstructed.

Acrophobia not gone but subdued, crossing the bridge on my bike had taken less than a minute. It might have taken two if I'd been battling pedestrians.

City Island seems too close to Harrisburg proper to really be an island, the bridge too solid to allow one to overlook the connection between the two. The separation seems ineffable.

I'd learned, through inescapable repetitions of the Pride's tour disc, that the mode depth of the river is 3.5 feet and that, save for a few deep spots that hit 8 or 12, even someone my height could walk from shore to shore.

On the bridge, I'd looked straight and over my handlebars, slightly down to 10 feet in front of me, peripheral vision handling the farther off. The rails of the bridge didn't call me toward the air and the water below as

much as they had once, but, even after 22 years of living within 60 feet of one of the East coast's largest rivers, 464 miles long and nearly a mile wide, I couldn't swim.

The horse crap from the previous week had finally washed through the bridge's walkway. The horses really needed diapers or the waste catches like the carriages in Philadelphia and New York have. Every time the Pride passed under while riders went over, I expected to hear a splash followed by screaming and disgusted passengers.

The river was still low, but not as low as it was before the rain. The pylons of Walnut Street, the over-river portion, this bridge, were really exposed, like the teeth of an overzealous brusher. The rain washed away most of the logs built up against the steel prow bar caps on the upriver side, so no broccoli in the braces or further dental analogies available.

No cruise that day. No horses that last cruise. It had been safe to stand on the foredeck and really look at the bridge. Giant brown stones, black-painted and comfortably rusted I-beams, same blackened grating. This was the cleanest of the bridges we passed under, its design such that it got a wash every time it rained, while the others just formed silt and filth stalactites.

The eroding roots of the intermediate supports still firmly anchored through the mud into the underlying river-bottom stone. One wonders why, when looking up at the bridge from below, he doesn't get the same fear sense of height as when he looks down on the spot from above.

Eight hours since the engine room.

The problem is always how to tell time passing when you know the reader doesn't take so long to turn a page.

My fingers still stink. The bridge is different in the dark. From here, from my window, it's an inverse outline, pretty lights dotting the frame of a prosaic and antiquated pass. Quaint and calm. Solid like a memorial, never mind that half out of view, the half that would connect the far side of the

island to the farther shore washed away 15 years ago. From here, it's just a frame.

It was always just a frame. The bridge doesn't make me afraid of heights or want to jump, doesn't tease me with the fantasy of scandalized and be-scattered Pride passengers. The bridge is a quarter-mile span of steel and stone on which to hang memories accrued through 20 years of Harrisburg citizenship. Something to give boundary to my self-reflections. A sedentary place for transient thought.

*Alexander Clark is an English major at Penn State Harrisburg.*

## WARMTH

I'll never be warm again  
Warm again  
I feel hollow  
Knock on me  
fist to forehead  
fingers bent  
And you will hear  
the echo  
vibrating off my skull  
buzzing  
buzzing  
You are puzzled  
Oh poor girl  
slithers out of your mouth  
I wince  
for all the ways I adore you  
eyelashes dipping into my pupils  
broken  
broken  
A cracked ornament  
on a discarded Christmas tree  
slowly rotating on its string

*Cindy Withjack*

## SALT

Some days you go  
The doorbell is broken  
Sadness comes  
tap, tap, tapping  
Politely pressing  
hard and heavy on each temple  
It steals you  
Fingertips tracing  
My eyes fill with salt  
when you leave  
I have never been patient  
The breeze goes right through me  
when you go  
I will learn

*Cindy Withjack*

*Cindy Withjack is a senior English major and writing minor at Penn State Harrisburg.*





## GEEK LOVE

### *Science gets sentimental in “The Theory of Everything.”*

BY SAMMI LEIGH MELVILLE

Everyone has some knowledge of Stephen Hawking, whether it's through reading his book, “A Brief History of Time,” watching a TV special on him, or even just hearing his name in passing.

Hawking is arguably the best-known theoretical physicist and cosmologist of today, and his name has permeated pop culture for decades. But though you may know who he is and what he does, there's a good chance that you know little about his personal life. Here is where director James Marsh steps in with his most recent film, a little biopic called “The Theory of Everything.”

If you're interested in Hawking's celebrated career, you'll have to look elsewhere. The story breezes over the details of his work, including just enough to convey that it is him that we're seeing on the screen. Instead, it focuses on the relationship between him and his first wife, Jane, and on the effects of his ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease).

We first see Hawking (played by Eddie Redmayne) as a young man working towards a doctorate in physics at Cambridge University, inattentive to his studies but

still managing to surpass his fellow students with little effort. His interest in cosmology greatly contrasts with the Christian faith that fellow student, Jane Wilde (Felicity Jones), has, but that isn't enough to keep the two apart, and they quickly find themselves in a serious relationship. When Hawking discovers he has a motor neuron disease and has been given two years to live, he tells Jane to move on, but she sticks with him. Spanning a timeframe that is much longer than two years, the rest of the film follows their marriage as Hawking's motor skills slowly deteriorate.

Make no mistake: “Theory” is a very romanticized take on Hawking's life. Unfortunately, for a story that already has half the work done (all that writer Anthony McCarten had to do was take a life lived and lay it out in a succinct fashion), the result is less than satisfactory.

Many scenes are overly cinematic, and there is plenty of dialogue that makes it painfully clear that you're watching a film. The film also gives a biased portrayal of Hawking, an oddity in itself given that McCarten adapted the screenplay from Jane Wilde Hawking's memoirs, which are brutally honest. Yet numerous scenes conflict with her stories in order to romanticize his character, especially toward the end of their relationship (this is a love story, folks—accuracy be damned).

However, this is a rare case in which a film, despite having a script suited for the Hallmark channel, manages to stand proudly. The director and actors join forces to breathe life into characters that may have otherwise fallen flat on the page. It's a fascinating lesson in reading between the lines. If you can focus on the way the characters say the lines instead of the lines themselves, you'll fall in love with them.

Redmayne gives a performance that is nothing short of captivating. Perhaps no one could have done a better job in the role, and I wouldn't be surprised if his name comes up on the Oscar ballots. Jones also holds her own as Jane. There is one scene near the end of the film in which the two make some weighty confessions to each other that is especially powerful.

It's a great film for the purpose of sentimentality, and, while I wouldn't say that you'll know the ins and outs of Stephen Hawking's biography by the end, I will venture to say that you will enjoy yourself. “The Theory of Everything” is playing this month at Midtown Cinema. Come check it out! **B**

---

*Sammi Leigh Melville is a staff member and film reviewer at Midtown Cinema.*



### DECEMBER EVENTS

#### *National Theatre Live Series*

Broadway production  
“Of Mice and Men”  
Sunday, Nov. 30, 4pm  
& Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7pm

#### *“It’s a Wonderful Life”*

Frank Capra's classic holiday film  
Sunday, Dec. 7, 7pm; Sunday, Dec 21, 7pm;  
& Wednesday, Dec. 24, 7pm

#### *Down in Front!*

Improv crew skewers  
“Santa Claus Conquers the Martians”  
Friday, Dec. 12, 9:30ish

#### *Saturday Morning Cartoons*

Classic cartoons on the big screen  
Saturday, Dec. 13, 9:30-11:30am

#### *Mommy & Me Matinees*

Early matinees every second Saturday!  
Saturday, Dec. 13

#### *“The Search for Animal Chin”*

Cult skateboarding film w/Tsunami  
Experiment playing live soundtrack  
Saturday, Dec. 13, 9pm

#### *Foreign & Classic Series*

“The Bishop's Wife” w/Cary Grant  
Sunday, Dec. 14, 6pm

#### *3rd in The Burg \$3 Movie*

“Back to the Future”  
Friday, Dec. 19, 9:30ish

#### *Family Film Series*

“The Muppet Christmas Carol”  
Saturday, Dec. 20, 12:15pm;  
Sunday, Dec. 21, 1:30pm;  
& Monday, Dec. 22, 2:30pm

#### *“White Christmas”*

Classic Christmas musical  
Saturday, Dec. 20, 12:15pm & 7pm;  
Monday, Dec. 22, 7pm;  
& Thursday, Dec. 25, 7pm

#### *New Year's Pajama Party*

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 7pm



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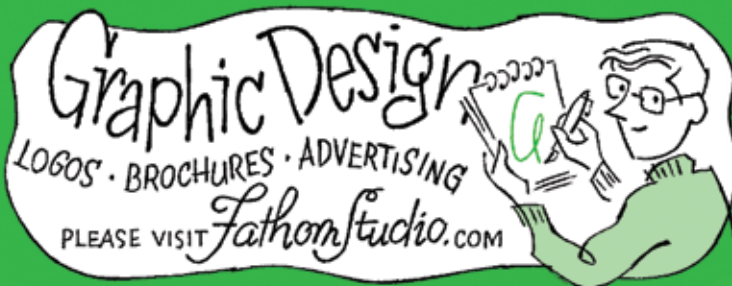
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# A BREATH OF PLEIN AIR

*Major show mounted for one of Harrisburg's best-known artist groups.*

BY LORI M. MYERS

When a friend introduced Steve Wetzel of Harrisburg to members of an artist collective called the Seven Lively Artists at an exhibit in Mechanicsburg, this former cartoonist and now-and-then landscape artist had found his calling—and his group of like-minded creators.

After seeing their work, Wetzel traveled with them on their annual excursion to Cape Cod to paint, not within the warmth and comfort of a studio, but outdoors amid the area's terrain and shorelines. Wetzel was hooked and has been a part of this group of artists for almost a dozen years.

Through Jan. 10, Wetzel is one of 16 artists from the Seven Lively Artists to show their work at Gallery at Second in downtown Harrisburg. The exhibition, entitled "7-Lively Artists 1956-2014," includes more than 50 works on display covering a wide range of time and styles. Wetzel, for example, has four of his works in the show—all representational oil landscapes that were painted en plein air, meaning that they were painted in the open air and on location.

"Our group always tries to hold an annual holiday exhibit around November and December, and so this particular show coincides with that tradition," Wetzel says. "This will be the first time we've had the opportunity to hold a group show at Gallery at Second, and so this will be a special event for us."

The Seven Lively Artists trace their beginning to 1956, when seven friends brought a relatively novel concept—plein air painting—to the Harrisburg area. As the popularity of the form grew, membership increased, so that those original seven now number about 18.

This exhibit fits right in with what owners Ted and Linda Walke had in mind when they opened their gallery in May 2010 after an extensive renovation of their building on N. 2nd Street.

"Our goal is pretty simple," Ted Walke says. "To place artwork in a wide scope of collections while underscoring the artwork's educational and cultural value to patrons and visitors."

The beautiful gallery usually features two independent exhibits on the main floor, every five to six weeks. The Upstairs Gallery features another 200-plus pieces by more than 50 local artists.

"With the exhibition of the Seven Lively Artists, it's the first time we've opened the main floor for one exhibition," Walke adds. "With more than 50 works by this collective, the resulting viewing experience will be one of both high quality and a mixture of mediums that will satisfy even the most discriminating gallery viewer."

This is the first time the gallery has hosted the group. However, it has shown works by a number of the individual artists within it.

Paul Gallo of Middletown is another of the Seven

Lively Artists featured in the exhibit. Gallo worked in advertising as an art director for more than 30 years, but in the past 10 discovered a renewed interest in fine art.

"I paint in oils, in a representational manner of subjects that interest me," he says. "My three pieces in the current show are an example of this—a plein air landscape and two paintings of animals."

While he enjoys the painting process, Gallo truly loves exhibiting his art, adding that most artists want their work to be viewed and appreciated.

"I think paintings are a calming, contemplative experience—a nice contrast to today's hectic, sensory-assaulting visual media—television, movies, Internet," he says.

From landscapes to animals, Walke is thrilled and honored to include this esteemed group within his walls, conveying on canvas the elements they felt and sensed while out of doors.

"With the interest shown thus far," Walke says, "the public's eager anticipation is a good indicator that we are among many who regard this Harrisburg collective as a cultural treasure." **B**

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*"7-Lively Artists 1956-2014" runs through Jan. 10 at Gallery at Second, 608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg. For more information, visit [www.galleryatsecond.com](http://www.galleryatsecond.com). Please note that the gallery will be closed Dec. 25 to Jan. 3.*



*Pictured left to right: Jonathan Frazier, Dave Henry, and Earl Blust painting in Cape Cod. Photo by Steve Wetzel.*





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# VOICES OF THE SEASON

*Choral groups portray Christmas in song.*

BY DEANNE SHIREY



For many people, music is a big part of the holiday. Fortunately, here in central Pennsylvania, we have several choral groups that will bring new life and a sense of spirituality to a genre often defined by the stale songs one hears in an endless loop at the shopping mall.

First up, the Harrisburg Singers will perform their concert, “Holiday!” in early December at three different venues, presenting a collage of classical and secular Christmas music. The anticipated highlight: three joyous movements from British composer John Rutter’s “Magnificat” (“Song of Mary”) and two choruses from Handel’s “Messiah.”

“The group changes sound and mood throughout,” said Artistic Director Sue Solomon Beckley. “Several of our own members will be featured in solo roles. And you will hear percussion—the timpani (kettle drums) on two songs, in addition to the organ and piano. It’s a mixture of styles that all will enjoy.”

The Harrisburg Singers were founded in 1984 by vocalist Ron Sider.

“He brought together the best soloists in the capital city at that time to create and showcase a professional sounding group,” said Kat Prickett, secretary of the Harrisburg Singers. “Back then, they were semi-professional paid performers.”

For the past two decades, Beckley has led the group of 40 singers. She has an extensive background in music education and is an adjunct professor of voice at Bucknell University.

“We are known as ‘One Voice,’” said Beckley. “The singers work to blend the quality of the sound, as if just one person is singing. Since each voice has a special quality, the blend comes out as a lush sound.”

Closer to the yuletide, the Harrisburg Choral Society will put on its holiday concert, “Christmas Celebration.” The

group will spread holiday cheer by performing 20 minutes of Bach’s “Christmas Oratorio,” balanced by 40 minutes of traditional carols.

“The opening chorus of this piece (Bach) is incredibly exhilarating. It captures what Christmas is all about,” explained past president Glenn Murray. “Even if you are not familiar with the music, it is so overt—just hearing the musical content hits you emotionally.”

Founded in 1895, the Harrisburg Choral Society recently welcomed the youngest music director in its long history, Jason Vodicka, who is just 34 years old. He also is the coordinator of music educational programs and an assistant professor of music at Susquehanna University.

Vodicka brings a focus on vocal technique to the group. He is interested in musical style—making Berlioz sound like Berlioz and Bach sound like Bach.

“I put the focus on the text and expressing the music together, as opposed to instrumentalists, to communicate with the audience,” said Vodicka.

He added that he is impressed with the level of talent and hard work that his group possesses.

“They come with expertise, and they are willing to try new methods,” he said.

The admiration appears to flow in both directions.

“He has different ways of warming up our voices and presenting the music,” said veteran soprano Jayne Kopko of Mechanicsburg, who’s been with the group for 12 years. “We are excited to have such a young director.” **B**

## THE HARRISBURG SINGERS

The Harrisburg Singers will perform their concert “Holiday!” at three different venues:

Friday, Dec. 5, 8 p.m.  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
1801 Colonial Rd., Harrisburg

Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
2000 Chestnut St., Camp Hill

Sunday, Dec. 7, 3 p.m.,  
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church  
300 E. Simpson St., Mechanicsburg

Tickets are available at the door: \$20 adults; \$15 seniors; \$5 students.

*More information is at*  
[www.harrisburgsingers.org](http://www.harrisburgsingers.org).

## HARRISBURG CHORAL SOCIETY

The Harrisburg Choral Society will perform its “Christmas Celebration” concert on Dec. 21, 3 p.m., at the Grace Milliman Pollock Performing Arts Center 340 N. 21st St., Camp Hill.

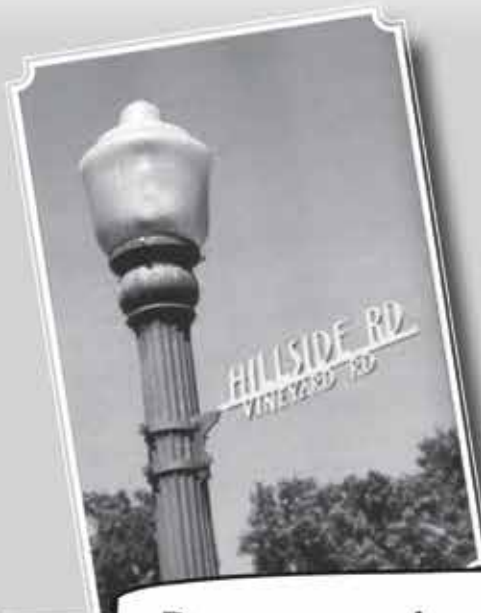
Tickets are available at the door: \$20 adults; \$17 seniors; \$5 students.

*More information is at*  
[www.harrisburgchoralsociety.org](http://www.harrisburgchoralsociety.org).



Jason Vodicka





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## JINGLE BELL-LESS

*Do you hear what I hear?*

BY ANDREW DYRLI HERMELING

I know, I know, December is for holiday music. But I must confess, sometimes I need a break from “Jingle Bells” and “White Christmas.”

If you’re like me, you’ll want to brave the snow and chill and see one of these shows. Whether you are looking for upbeat or contemplative music, December has a number of quality offerings. So, put down the eggnog, tie a scarf around your neck and go see some live music. Besides, they show “A Charlie Brown Christmas” on TV every year, right?

**HANK & CUPCAKES, 12/11, 8PM, ABBEY BAR, \$7:** This husband and wife duo is hard to categorize. New York-based by way of Tel Aviv, the pair’s music is infectious, danceable pop with a punk attitude. But when you see them live, you realize that they are much more than they seem. Using an extensive pedal board, “Hank” creates a wall of sound using only his bass guitar while vocalist “Cupcakes” belts out powerful melodies while adding percussion. Their shows are a live experience that separates them from so many other dance musicians who perform from behind a MacBook.

**MATTHEW O’NEILL, 12/12, 7PM, DOWNTOWN LITTLE AMPS, \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION:** A wild, backwoods rocker, Matthew O’Neill draws comparisons to Neil Young and Creedence Clearwater Revival. With chunky electric guitars and gravelly vocals, his sound is weathered, which is appropriate considering the subject matter. Often tackling the realities of hard living, his music offers a wealth of experienced wisdom. Tinged with indigenous cosmology and an appreciation for America’s vast uninhabited country, O’Neill is enigmatic, existing somewhere between the world and what lies beyond it.

**BRIAN DUNNE, 12/19, 7PM, MIDTOWN SCHOLAR, FREE:** Brian Dunne is a country singer in the truest sense of the word. His melancholic songs resonate with the heartbroken, but he also has a dose of the big city in his music. A graduate of the Berklee College of Music, he has called New York home since 2011. With a powerful and emotive voice, he connects with those who have experienced love and loss, suggesting wisdom beyond his years. **B**

*Mentionables: Jonathon Boogie Long and the Nighthawks, 12/6, Whitaker Center; Tom Yoder, Midtown Scholar, 12/12; Turkuaz, Abbey Bar, 12/19; Camela Widad, HMAc, 12/27*

### 12|6

JONATHON BOOGIE LONG  
AND THE NIGHTHAWKS

WHITAKER CENTER  
STARTS AT 8 PM

### 12|11

HANK & CUPCAKES

ABBEY BAR  
50 N. CAMERON ST., HARRISBURG  
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### 12|12

MATTHEW O’NEILL

LITTLE AMPS DOWNTOWN  
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### 12|19

BRIAN DUNNE

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### 12|27

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*Hank & Cupcakes. Photo credit: Robin Souma*



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Dec. 1-14: Shoppers 12 and under can do their holiday shopping with assistance from Santa's helpers at Fort Hunter in the Centennial Barn on Saturdays and Sundays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. All items \$10 and under. Visit [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### Wreath Auction

Dec. 1-19: Perry County Council of the Arts will hold a silent auction featuring cleverly crafted, artistic holiday wreaths and decorations, as well as matted prints from the 2015 Perry County Photography Calendar showcasing shots of local birds and animals. Bidding ends Dec. 19. Visit [perrycountyarts.org](http://perrycountyarts.org).

### Festival of Trees

Dec. 1-21: View Christmas trees decorated by local garden clubs using handmade ornaments at Fort Hunter Tavern House on Saturdays and Sundays, 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Trees available for raffle. Ornaments for sale. Visit [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### Catalyst Awards Presentation

Dec. 4: Join the Harrisburg Regional Chamber at Whitaker Center for a black-tie optional event to present the Catalyst Awards. Reception begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets \$100. Members \$75. Contact Nicole Keiner at [nmkeiner@gmail.com](mailto:nmkeiner@gmail.com).

### Craft Reunion

Dec. 5-7: This annual tradition at Fort Hunter brings unique, handmade works to craft lovers. Browsers and buyers can see and purchase one-of-a-kind creations from Pennsylvania artisans. Visit [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### Greens Sale

Dec. 5-7: Holiday greenery such as topiaries, centerpieces, swags, as well as hand-painted ornaments, will be for sale at this annual event at Fort Hunter. Go to [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### Polar Express Pajama Party

Dec. 5: Celebrate the holiday in unique fashion at the Polar Express Pajama Party, 6 to 9 p.m., at the AACAMuseum in Hershey. After being greeted by a railroad conductor, visitors can tour the museum and the Polar Express model train display. Information is at [aacamuseum.org](http://aacamuseum.org).

### Elegant Progressions

Dec. 5-6: The black tie progressive dinner, presented by Historic Harrisburg Association and the Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania, features dining in three landmark private homes. For more information, visit [historicharrisburg.com](http://historicharrisburg.com).

### Holiday Music

Dec. 5-7: Help the Harrisburg Singers ring in the holiday at their traditional concert of carols. Three performances: Dec. 5 at 8 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church in Colonial Park; Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill; and Dec. 7 at 3 p.m. at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. More information is at [harrisburgsingers.org](http://harrisburgsingers.org).

### Holiday Fun

Dec. 6: Perry County Council of the Arts will host its annual holiday shopping and music extravaganza in downtown Newport, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 717-567-7023 or visit [www.perrycountyarts.org](http://www.perrycountyarts.org).

### Whig National Convention Celebration

Dec. 6: The Dauphin County Historical Society and Zion Lutheran Church will hold a commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the Whig National Convention at Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S. 4th St., Harrisburg, starting at 2 p.m. Visit [zionharrisburg.org](http://zionharrisburg.org).

### Victorian Tea

Dec. 7: Enjoy Victorian elegance, tasty tea sandwiches and spiced tea at this holiday tradition at Fort Hunter, 1 to 4 p.m. Visit [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### "This Christmastide"

Dec. 7: Hershey Community Chorus will perform both sacred and secular holiday music during two concerts, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the AACAMuseum in Hershey. The second concert includes the option of a holiday buffet dinner starting at 6 p.m. Visit [aacamuseum.org](http://aacamuseum.org).

### Sounds of the Season

Dec. 7: Central PA Symphony will ring in the holiday season with the Derry Handbell Choir at the Palm Lutheran Church in Palmyra. The concert begins at 6 p.m. For more information, visit [centralpasymphony.org](http://centralpasymphony.org).

### Fredricksen Reads

Dec. 9: Join the discussion of "Unwritten," a novel by Charles Martin at the Fredricksen Library. You must have read or listened to the book to attend. Call 761-3900 or visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### Dickens Celebration

Dec. 9: Historical Society of Dauphin County will hold its annual fundraiser at the Harris-Cameron Mansion, Harrisburg, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The evening will include music by Joe Trojack, drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres and desserts. For tickets and information, call 233-3462 or email [office@dauphincountyhistory.org](mailto:office@dauphincountyhistory.org).

### Chamber Award Winners

Dec. 9: West Shore Chamber's Annual Meeting & Luncheon will feature addresses by the board and an awards presentation to four local business leaders. Event takes place at the Radisson Hotel Harrisburg, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Members only. Tickets \$35. Visit [wschamber.org](http://wschamber.org).

### Railway Historical Society Talk

Dec. 9: "Streamliners to Spencer, NC" will be the topic of an illustrated talk by Mark S. Eyer, vice president of operations of Carlisle-based Daily Express, at Hoss's Restaurant in Enola at 7 p.m. Meal available as early as 5 pm. Call 238-2131 or email [sloan@auchincloss.com](mailto:sloan@auchincloss.com).

### Sing Me to Winter

Dec. 12: The Cumberland Singers will celebrate the holiday season at the Enola Emmanuel United Methodist Church at 8 p.m. The singers will feature holiday favorites, as well as fresh approaches to music. Call 367-8030 or visit [cumberlandingers.org](http://cumberlandingers.org).

### Holiday Mansion Tour

Dec. 13: Historical Society of Dauphin County and Pennsylvania National Fire Museum will present a holiday tour of the beautifully decorated Harris-Cameron mansion in Harrisburg at 10 a.m. The tour then heads to the museum, which will feature a display of toy trains. Admission \$5. Space limited. Call 233-3462.

### Meet the Monks

Dec. 14: Enjoy a 30-minute mini-Reiki session and a blessing from monks of the Drepung Gomang Monastery at the Reiki Space & Learning Place, 2793 Old Post Rd., Harrisburg, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Refreshments, door prizes and suggested \$30 donation to benefit the monks. Call 599-2299 or visit [reikibyrickie.com](http://reikibyrickie.com).

### Cancer Support Group

Dec. 14: Penn State Hershey Medical Center will host a head and neck cancer support group at the University Conference Center in Hershey for patients to connect with and receive support from other patients and caregivers. Call 531-4728 or email [headandnecksupportgroup@hmc.psu.edu](mailto:headandnecksupportgroup@hmc.psu.edu).

### Christmas at the Mansion

Dec. 14: Visit with Santa and tour the beautifully decorated Harris-Cameron Mansion in Harrisburg, 1 to 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served, and holiday crafts will be available for purchase. \$5 suggested donation. Information at [dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org).

### Candlelight Tour

Dec. 14: Join Historic Harrisburg Association for its 41st annual Candlelight House Tour, which this year features homes in the Bellevue Park neighborhood. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the tour, which runs 1 to 6 p.m. Visit [historicharrisburg.com](http://historicharrisburg.com).

### Harps and Handbells Concert

Dec. 15: Get into the holiday spirit with a relaxing evening of carols and holiday music at the Fredricksen Library at 7 p.m. Light refreshments provided. Call 761-3900 or visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### Little Buffalo Christmas Trail

Dec. 17-23: In this annual holiday celebration, children can meet Santa, see thousands of lights and enjoy handcrafted wooden figures. The free event takes place 6 to 9 p.m. in the park's East Picnic area. Contact the park at 717-567-9255 or email [littlebuffsp@state.pa.us](mailto:littlebuffsp@state.pa.us).

### Business After Hours

Dec. 18: Mix and mingle with business professionals at the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC for its December networking event at BDO USA, 945 E. Park Dr., Suite 103, Harrisburg. Visit [harrisburgregionalchamber.org](http://harrisburgregionalchamber.org).

### 3rd in The Burg

Dec. 19: Enjoy the best of Harrisburg during 3rd in The Burg, the monthly arts event at galleries, restaurants and art spaces throughout downtown and Midtown. For more information, visit [thirdintheburg.org](http://thirdintheburg.org).

### "Christmas Celebration"

Dec. 21: Harrisburg Choral Society will perform holiday favorites, as well as lesser-known works, at 3 p.m. at the Grace Millman Pollock Performing Arts Center, 340 N. 21st St., Camp Hill. More information is at [harrisburgchoralsociety.org](http://harrisburgchoralsociety.org).

### Children's New Year

Dec. 31: Join the Popcorn Hat Players as they count down to noon during their annual New Year's Eve Party for children. Admission includes a Hawaiian lei, noisemakers, a party hat and admission to a performance of "The Three Little Pigs." Visit [gamutplays.org](http://gamutplays.org).



## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

### Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; artassocofhbg.com

"Invitational Exhibit," featuring Philip Cogan, Robert L. Hughes, Mary Anne Lard & Kristine Miller-Siple, Dec. 5-Jan. 8; reception, Dec. 5, 5-8 p.m.

### The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Featured Artist: Larry Doyle,  
through December.

### Fort Hunter

5300 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-599-5751; forthunter.org

Toy Train Exhibit & Festival of Trees,  
through Dec. 21.

"Downton Elegance: Fort Hunter  
High Fashions of the Downton  
Abbey Era," through Dec. 23.

### Gallery@Second

608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
galleryatsecond.com

"7-Lively Artists," through Jan. 10.

### National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle, Harrisburg  
717-260-1861; nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"1864," an exhibit highlighting  
the fourth year of the Civil War  
covering battles, strategies and  
civilian lives, through December.

### Metropolis Collective

17 W. Main St., Mechanicsburg  
717-458-8245; metropoliscollective.com

"New Abstraction-3 Select," artwork  
by Paul Nagle, David T. Miller and  
Ian White Williams, through Jan. 2.

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; nedsmithcenter.org

"The Art of Dan Christ," through Dec. 27.

### PCCA Gallery

Perry County Council of the Arts  
1 S. 2nd St., Newport  
perrycountyarts.org

"Artisan Marketplace of Perry  
County," through Jan. 3.

### Rose Lehrman Art Gallery

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
717-780-2435; hacc.edu

"Student Honors Photography  
Show," through Dec. 11; reception  
Dec. 4, 5:30-7 p.m.

### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg  
717-787-4980; statemuseumpa.org

"Art & Barriers" (exhibit of the DOSHI  
gallery), through Dec. 7.

"UnCommon Modern: A  
Pennsylvania Glossary of  
Midcentury Architecture," featuring  
photographs by Betsy Manning,  
through Apr. 26.

### Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

"Holiday Trains and Trees," an annual  
holiday display of model trains and  
themed trees, through Jan. 4.

"Skyscapes," featuring 27 paintings  
by nine noted plein air artists,  
through Jan. 9.

### Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

"Who Said What at Yellow Wall  
Gallery," art of Benjamin Jancewicz,  
through Dec. 18.

"Gone Full Circle," art of Surina  
Nathaniel, Dec. 19-Jan. 15; opening  
reception, Dec. 19, 6-7 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

### The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
717-737-5026;  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Dec. 3: Wednesday Word Flow, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 10: Feast of the Fishes cooking  
class, 6 p.m.

Dec. 17: Quick holiday appetizers  
cooking class, 6 p.m.

Dec. 30: Night before New Year's Eve  
cooking class, 6 p.m.

Dec. 31: New Year's Eve celebration  
cooking class, 6 p.m.

### Fort Hunter

5300 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-599-5751; forthunter.org

Dec. 7: Open Hearth Cooking  
Demonstration, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

### The LGBT Center of Central PA

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534; centralpalgbtcenter.org

Dec. 2: Women's Group, 7 p.m.

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Common Roads  
Harrisburg, 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 4: Aging with Pride Potluck  
Dinner, 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 11: Aging with Pride Lunchtime  
Discussion, 12-2 p.m.

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Cafe

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Dec. 1: Swing Dance at the Scholar,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 2, 16, 30: Meet-Up, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Dec. 2: Sci Fi Writers Group, 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 3: Midtown Chess Club, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dec. 3: Susquehanna Salon, 7-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Almost Uptown Poetry  
Cartel, 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 4: Coffee with Alinsky with  
Nathan Sooy, 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 5, 12, 26: Nathaniel Gadsden's  
Spoken Word Café, 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 6: Anime Class, 1-5 p.m.

Dec. 6: Good News Café, 6-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28: TED Talks, 1-2:30 p.m.

Dec. 10, 17, 24, 31: Midtown Chess Club,  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Dec. 10: Friends of Midtown Events  
Meeting, 6-7 p.m.

Dec. 11, 18: Camp Curtin Toastmasters,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 13: Sacred Art Tour Cultural  
Pageant w/monks from Drepung  
Gomang Monastery, 6:30-8 p.m.

Dec. 16: Friends of Midtown Safety  
Committee, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: Kalpa Bhadra Kadampa  
Buddhist Center presents "The Basics  
of Modern Buddhism," 7-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 17: Book Club: Sci-Fi/Fantasy, 7-9 p.m.

Dec. 19: Coffee Education w/café staff,  
12-1 p.m.

Dec. 19: Tea Tasting w/café staff, 2-3 p.m.

Dec. 20: Coffee & Critique, Designer  
Workshop, 8:30-9:30 a.m.

Dec. 20: Teen Achievers High School  
to College Panel Discussion, 9 a.m.-  
12 p.m.

Dec. 21: Book Club: LGBT, 5-7 p.m.

Dec. 30: Harrisburg Listening Lounge,  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

### The Perfect 5th Musical Arts Center

6240 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
717-691-9100; theperfect5th.com

Dec. 7: Holiday Open House, 2-5 p.m.

### Wildwood Park

100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg  
717-221-0292; wildwoodlake.org

Dec. 6: Wreath-Making Workshop, 9 a.m.,  
10 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Dec. 7, 21: Wild About Art: Natural  
Ornaments, 1-3 p.m.

Dec. 10: Preschool Storytime: Winter  
at Wildwood, 10-10:45 a.m.

Dec. 16: Photography Contest Display,  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Dec. 27-28: Meet a Naturalist: Animals  
in Winter, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

### 3rd Street Studio

1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-385-3315; 3rdstreetstudio.wix.com

Dec. 3: The Coalishun

### American Music Theatre

2425 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster  
717-397-7700; amtshows.com

Dec. 31: A Night in Vienna

### Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg  
717-221-1083; abcbrew.com

Dec. 4: Steal Your Face & Dr. Slothclaw

Dec. 5: Dirk Quinn Band

Dec. 6: Start Making Sense

Dec. 11: Hank & Cupcakes

Dec. 19: Turkuaz

Dec. 20: The Passionettes

Dec. 26: Jeffrey Gaines

### The Broad Street Market

1233 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-7923; broadstreetmarket.org

Dec. 12: The Coalishun and R&B Trio

### Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg  
717-909-9191; carleysristorante.com

Dec. 2, 10, 16: Jessica Cook

Dec. 3, 12, 26: Noel Gevers

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Ted Ansel

Dec. 5, 14, 19, 21, 28: Anthony Haubert

Dec. 6, 9, 13, 17: Roy LeFever

Dec. 20, 23, 27, 29: Chris Gassaway-  
Emkey

### Central PA Friends of Jazz

www.friendsofjazz.org

Dec. 14: Third Stream 40th  
Anniversary

### Chameleon Club

223 N. Water St., Lancaster  
717-299-9684; cameleonclub.net

Dec. 5: Chuck Ragan

Dec. 12: Ed Kowalczyk

Dec. 17: Chiodos, We Came As  
Romans, Slaves & Sleepwave

Dec. 18: blessthefall, Chelsea Grin, Upon  
A Burning Body & The Family Ruin

Dec. 26: Crobot

Dec. 29: August Burns Red, Texas in  
July, One Year Later, Chasing Safety,  
Brightwell & From Under the Willow

### The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
717-737-5026;  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Dec. 5: Jeanine & Friends

Dec. 7: Ellyot H. Ray

Dec. 12: Antonio Andrade

Dec. 13: Steven Gellman

Dec. 14: Shelba Purtle

Dec. 19: Doug Morris

Dec. 20: Zenesha

Dec. 21: Trace Morgan

Dec. 27: Loren Ferster



**The Garlic Poet Restaurant**

148 Sheraton Drive, New Cumberland  
717-774-5435; garlicpoet.com

Dec. 2: Jazz Me Duo  
Dec. 11: Corty Byron  
Dec. 18: Shea Quinn

**Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra**

The Forum at 5th and Walnut St.,  
Harrisburg  
717-545-5527; harrisburgsymphony.org

Dec. 13: Harrisburg Youth Symphony  
Orchestra Play-a-Thon

**Hershey Theatre**

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey  
717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com

Dec. 5: "Holiday Spectacular"  
(Hershey Symphony)  
Dec. 6: Straight No Chaser

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**

1110 N. 3rd St. 268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; harrisburgarts.com

Dec. 6: Bumperyachts & Skis  
Dec. 9: Boom Boom Shake  
Dec. 11: Strangest of Places  
Dec. 12: ANGI3  
Dec. 13: The Gordy Christmas Band  
Dec. 19: Subculture, The Lebowskis &  
First in Space  
Dec. 20: The Starving Musicians Benefit  
Dec. 27: Camela Widad CD Release  
Every Wednesday, Open Mic w/Mike  
Banks

**Johnny Joe's Sports Bar & Grill**

5327 E. Trindle Rd., Mechanicsburg  
717-766-2254; johnnyjoessportsbar.com

Dec. 5: Pocket Rockit  
Dec. 6: Silver City  
Dec. 12: Plugged in  
Dec. 13: Adrian Blitzer  
Dec. 19: Hybrid Bob  
Dec. 20: That's What She Said  
Dec. 26: Stomp'd  
Dec. 27: Fith

**Little Amps Coffee Roasters, Downtown**

133 State St., Harrisburg  
717-635-9870; littleampscoffee.com

Dec. 5: Tuckson & The Wayfarer  
Experiment  
Dec. 12: Matthew O'Neill  
Dec. 19: A Night with Spring Gate  
Vineyard

**Luhrs Performing Arts Center**

1871 Old Main Dr., Shippensburg  
717-477-7469; luhrscenter.com

Dec. 3, 4: Celtic Thunder  
Dec. 11: The Oak Ridge Boys

**The MakeSpace**

1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgmakespace.com

Dec. 6: Exit Verse  
Dec. 16: Alullia Isabelle

**Mangia Qui & Suba**

272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; mangiaqui.com

Dec. 5: Nate Myers & Chris Dean  
Dec. 6: David Pedrick  
Dec. 19: Craig & Ben  
Dec. 20: Devin Tuel & Stephen Harms  
Dec. 27: Paul Bratcher

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore- Cafe**

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Dec. 5: Brandon Parsons featuring  
Chasing Prophecy  
Dec. 12: Tom Yoder  
Dec. 19: Brian Dunne  
Dec. 27: Koji & Rebecca Miller

**MoMo's BBQ & Grille**

307 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-230-1030; momosbbqandgrill.com

Dec. 1: Black Rhoads  
Dec. 12: Autumn Brew  
Dec. 13: Sabrina & Frank  
Dec. 19: Visitors Duo

**Stock's on 2nd**

211 North 2nd Street, Harrisburg  
717-233-6699; www.stockssecond.com

Dec. 5: Hoot Baker  
Dec. 12: Scott Rivers  
Dec. 13: Steve Swisher & Shea Quinn  
Dec. 19: Wally DeWall  
Dec. 20: Songsmith  
Dec. 26: Hoot Baker  
Dec. 27: Wally DeWall

**Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center**

50 N. George St., York  
717-846-1111; mystrandcapitol.org

Dec. 5: Jazz in the City  
Dec. 6: David Bromberg Quintet  
Dec. 7: Michael McDonald

**The Susquehanna Folk Music Society**

717-745-6577; sfmfolk.org

Dec. 14: Holiday Jam Session

**Whitaker Center**

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

Dec. 6: Jonathon Boogie Long & The  
Nighthawks  
Dec. 27: Get the Led Out

## THE STAGE DOOR

**American Music Theatre**

2425 Lincoln Highway East, Lancaster  
717-397-7700; amtshows.com

"The 2014 Christmas Show," through  
Dec. 30

**Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre**

510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster  
717-898-1900; DutchApple.com

"It's A Wonderful Life," through Dec. 23

**Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center**

1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd., Middletown  
717-939-9333; hbg-cpac.org

"Winter Broadway Musical," Dec. 12-14  
"Christmas Cabaret," Dec. 19

**Harrisburg Improv Theatre**

1633 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgimprov.com

Improv Comedy, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27

**Hershey Theatre**

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey  
717-534-3405; hersheytheatre.com

"Elf the Musical," Dec. 9-14  
"The Nutcracker," Dec. 20-21  
Sesame Street Live, Dec. 27-28

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore- Cafe**

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

TMI Improv, Dec. 19  
Comedy Night at the Scholar, Dec. 19

**Open Stage of Harrisburg**

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-232-OPEN; openstagehbg.com

"Bill W. and Dr. Bob," through Dec. 14  
"The Santaland Diaries," Dec. 18-28

**Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut**

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"A Popcorn Hat Christmas Carol,"  
Dec. 3-20

"The Three Little Pigs," Dec. 31

**Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center**

50 N. George St., York  
717-846-1111; mystrandcapitol.org

"Evil Dead The Musical," Dec. 3  
"The Nutcracker," (Midstate Ballet)  
Dec. 13-14

**Theatre Harrisburg**

222 Market St., Harrisburg (at Whitaker  
Center)  
717-214-ARTS' theatreharrisburg.com

"The Nutcracker," (CPYB) Dec. 13-14

**Untitled Storytelling**

Live storytelling at a different  
Harrisburg location each month.  
untitledhbg.com

"Angels & Demons," Dec. 11  
(Market Square Presbyterian Church)

THE BURG

WISHES EVERYONE

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

&

A JOYOUS  
NEW YEAR!





*Jenna Sloan & George Fernandez*

## FAB

Folks were decked out in the formal and fun for FAB 2014, the LGBT Center of Central PA's annual celebration and fundraiser. FAB, short for Fall Achievement Benefit, honored several supporters, including Highmark Blue Shield, ACLU of Pennsylvania, activist Mary Nancarrow, and Julie Lobur and Marla Cattermole, who successfully fought Pennsylvania's same-sex marriage ban. The event at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey is a key source of funding for the Center's events and programming.



*Adam Porter & Aaron Engle*



*Louie Marven & Betsy Jamison*



*Barb Darkes, Stuart Landon, Stefanie Holland, Rachel Landon*



*Russ Boggs & Patty Kim*

## //////////////// SOCIALBURG / ON THE SCENE //////////////////



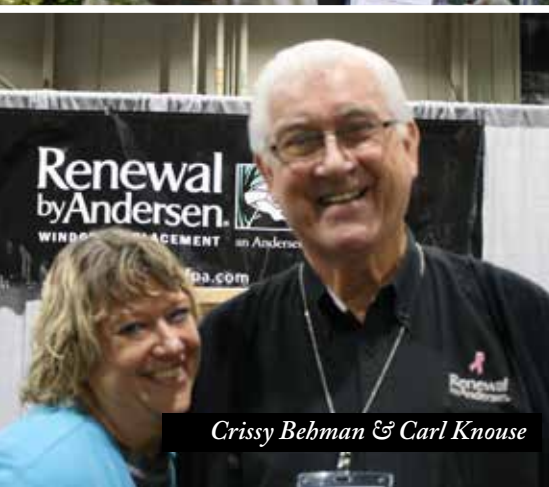
*Katie Zitkus*



*Jackie Katsifis, Kate Dussinger, Erica Meyer*



*Karen Karnes & Kristin Deibler*



*Crissy Behman & Carl Knouse*

## 2014 BUSINESS EXPO

Buyers, sellers and browsers last month flocked to the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC 2014 Business Expo. The annual event showcases products and services offered by midstate businesses, helping to connect attendees with vendors. All day long, patrons strolled about the expansive PA Farm Show Complex and Expo Center, often weighed down by tote bags filled with swag like mugs, pens, notepads, T-shirts and more. This was the 28th year for the Expo, which is held each November.



*Danielle Wertz & John McGenry*



# SHARING THE HARVEST

*It's easier than ever to donate your surplus venison.*

BY KERMIT G. HENNING



**T**he opportunities to harvest more than one deer in Pennsylvania abound.

Besides an antlered buck allowed on your general license, there are many ways to take an antlerless deer, as well. Doe licenses are available in every part of the state; numbers depend on the Wildlife Management Unit you hunt. It's possible to add another three deer if you are fortunate enough to be drawn for additional licenses.

Then there are harvest permits from the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). DMAP provides an additional means for landowners to manage deer to meet their land-use goals. It also provides additional opportunities to the hunters who participate in the program. Hunters can get up to two DMAP harvest permits per property. The more DMAP properties you hunt, the more deer you may take.

Finally, the Pennsylvania Game Commission has issued 13,000 special antlerless deer harvest permits for use in Disease Management Area 2 this fall, an area in the south-central part of the state, including parts of Bedford, Blair, Huntingdon, Cambria and Fulton counties, where Chronic Wasting Disease has been identified in wild, free-ranging deer. Hunters may purchase an unlimited number of permits until all permits are issued.

Therefore, at the conclusion of all seasons, a hunter in Pennsylvania can add a considerable amount of tasty, healthy meat to their freezer. It also affords

the opportunity to help feed those less fortunate in our commonwealth.

The Hunters Sharing the Harvest Program, founded in 1991, coordinates the processing and distribution of donated wild game from hunters and municipal herd reduction sources to hungry people throughout Pennsylvania. You can donate a deer through one of the program's many participating processors closest to where you hunt or live. An average-sized deer will provide enough highly nutritious, low-cholesterol meat for 200 meals.

To donate, a hunter takes a deer to a participating butcher, who will process the venison into 1-pound bags to be distributed by food banks to local charitable, hunger-relief organizations, such as soup kitchens and food pantries. One deer produces

around 40 to 50 pounds of ground venison that can feed more than 30 families.

"The venison we get from the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program is like gold," says Brad Peterson, director of communications for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. "Many people who are struggling with hunger go without that center-of-the-plate protein to try to make their meal dollars stretch. When we get this venison in, we just can't keep it in our freezers. As fast as we put it in, it goes on our inventory, and it goes right back out. People want this. It is highly desired. It's a high-protein, low-fat meat that everyone loves."

Some significant changes in the program for 2014 make it even easier to donate an extra deer. Hunters had been asked to donate \$15 when they dropped off their deer at the butchers to cover the cost of processing, but not any more.

"This copay has been dropped for this year," said John Plowman, executive director for HSH. "Costs of processing are now covered by the program and its many sponsors. Hopefully, this will encourage even more successful hunters to participate."

Finding a processor to take your deer is easy, as well. The HSH has a toll-free phone number (1-866-HSH-2141) that hunters can call to find a processor, or go to the website ([www.sharedeer.org](http://www.sharedeer.org)) to find a list of processors by county.

Hunt safely this season. Shoot straight and remember all of the needy families you can help feed in the state. **B**



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## THE F-TYPE COUPE.

Everybody knew their proper place in the sports car food chain. Then we went and created this: the new F-TYPE Coupe. Crafted in lightweight aluminum for stunning responsiveness, and stirring things up with 550 supercharged horses in "R" trim. In fact, it even overpowers Porsche 911 Carrera S and Audi R8 4.2, with plenty to spare. Status quo be damned. This changes everything. The F-TYPE Coupe, starting from \$65,000.\*



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\*Price shown is MSRP. Excludes destination/handling, tax, title, license, retailer fees and optional equipment. Retailer price may vary. See your local authorized Jaguar Retailer for details. Jaguar Retailer or approved lender may rescind or amend this offer without notice. ©2014 JAGUAR LAND ROVER NORTH AMERICA, LLC



# Weight Loss Center Now Open in Silver Spring!



## With help, you can achieve your best weight.

When you have the support of an experienced team behind you, you can achieve your best weight. Our team will work closely with you to choose a medical or surgical weight loss program that works with your lifestyle and budget, enabling you to change your weight and change your life. Call (717) 231-8900 to register to attend a group information session.

## Services offered include:

- Non-surgical weight loss programs, customizable to individual needs
- Bariatric surgery program designated as a Center of Excellence
- Weekly clinics and classes for on-going and professional support and education
- High-quality protein meal replacements to supplement weight loss plans
- "Better Plate. Better Weight." demonstration cooking classes
- Support groups for continued success

**PinnacleHealth Weight Loss Center, Harrisburg**  
4315 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg

**PinnacleHealth Weight Loss Center, Silver Spring**  
21 Waterford Drive, Mechanicsburg



**PINNACLEHEALTH**  
Weight Loss Center

[pinnaclehealth.org/wlc](http://pinnaclehealth.org/wlc)





## PARTICIPATING VENUES:

3RD STREET STUDIO 1725 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG 21 N. FRONT ST.,  
9:30 AM-9 PM  
BROAD STREET MARKET 1233 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
CRAVE & CO. 614 N. 2ND ST., 7-9 PM  
FRIENDS OF MIDTOWN WWW.FRIENDSOFMIDTOWN.ORG  
GALLERY@SECOND 608 N. 2ND ST., 6-9 PM  
HARRISBURG IMPROV THEATRE 1633 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
HMAC STAGE ON HERR 268 HERR ST., 5-9 PM  
NOTE 1530 N. 2ND ST., 6-9 PM  
LGBT CENTER GALLERY 1306 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
LITTLE AMPS 133 STATE ST., 6-9 PM  
THE MAKESPACE 1916 N. 3RD ST., 6-10 PM  
STASH 234 NORTH ST., 5-9 PM  
ST@RTUP 1519 N. 3RD ST., 6-10 PM  
YELLOW BIRD CAFE 1320 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM



## HOP THE SUTLIFF SHUTTLE!

THE SUTLIFF CHEVROLET SHUTTLE VAN  
WILL RUN IN A LOOP PAST  
3RD IN THE BURG VENUES, 5-9 PM.  
JUMP ONBOARD FOR A FREE RIDE!

## STOPS ARE:

GALLERY@SECOND | THE MAKESPACE  
STATE MUSEUM | MIDTOWN SCHOLAR  
3RD AND WALNUT | 2ND AND WALNUT

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19: ART, MUSIC & MORE. THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH IN HARRISBURG.



## MIDTOWN SCHOLAR

1302 N. 3RD ST.  
236.1680 | MIDTOWNSCHOLAR.COM

12 pm: The Science of Coffee  
2 pm: Tea Tasting  
6:30 pm: Drepung Gomang  
Monastery perform  
Chant for Peace  
6 pm: Opening Reception  
"Gone Full Circle" by Surina  
Nathaniel Yellow Wall Gallery  
7 pm: Drepung Gomang  
Monastery showcase  
Tibetan Debate  
7 pm: TMI Improv Group  
7:30 pm: Brian Dunne  
in Concert  
8 pm: Comedy Night



## THE STATE MUSEUM

N. 3RD ST. (BETWEEN NORTH  
AND FORSTER)

787.4980 | STATEMUSEUMPA.ORG

11 am-1:30 pm: "The Museum  
Store" Fill those last minute  
holiday gift needs with a trip  
to The Museum Store featuring  
Pennsylvania pottery, glass,  
jewelry, books and chocolates.  
Gifts for all members of the  
family are available. Mention  
this ad to receive 10% off of  
your total purchase. Museum  
members receive 20% off during  
this event.



## HISTORIC HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION

1230 N. 3RD ST.

233.4646 | HISTORICHARRISBURG.COM

Historic Harrisburg Association is  
partnering with Midtown Scholar  
Bookstore to present "Meet the  
Tibetan Monks."  
5-6 pm: Mix & Mingle with Monks  
at HHA, plus Tibetan music and  
merchandise for sale  
7-7:15 pm: Discussion about the  
meaning of prayer flags  
7:15-8 pm: Mix & Mingle with Monks  
8-8:20 pm: Monks chant  
for world peace  
8:20-9 pm: Mix & Mingle  
with Monks



## WHITAKER CENTER

222 MARKET ST.

214.ARTS | WHITAKERCENTER.ORG

9:30 am-8 pm: "Skyscapes"  
Presented by the Art Association  
of Harrisburg, this exhibition  
features 27 paintings by nine  
noted plein air artists, who  
are also members of the Art  
Association of Harrisburg.  
Known for their landscapes and  
dramatic skies, these artists  
concentrate mainly on the "sky"  
as the theme of their works.  
All nine artists have created  
stunning paintings, painted "en  
plein air" on location in the area.



## MANGIA QUI & SUBA

272 NORTH ST.

233.7358 | MANGIAQUI.COM

5-11 pm: Art by Cynthia Taft on  
display. Music by Craig & Ben. Ask  
for the night's Featured Cocktail!



## CITY HOUSE B&B

915 N. FRONT ST.

903.2489 | CITYHOUSEBB.COM

6-9 pm: Merry Christmas from  
City House! Celebrate Midtown  
at our Open House  
Christmas Party.



## MIDTOWN CINEMA

250 REILLY ST.

909.6566 | MIDTOWNCINEMA.COM

9:30 pm: This month's \$3 movie  
is "Back to the Future," with a  
BYOB after-party.