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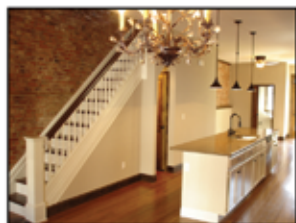
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

People often ask me about my job, sometimes with an assumption that goes something like this: "That must be exciting!"

Actually, producing TheBurg involves long hours in front of a computer, a great deal of organization, tons of writing and editing, close attention to detail and more than a little frustration. Exciting? Rarely.

The excitement I do have might be called "slow-motion excitement," the end result of all those hours of hard work. It's the thrill of a new issue hitting the streets, the appreciative comments from the community, seeing that a certain page looks as nice in print as it did on the screen.

One of those exciting moments came in late March when, waking up early one morning, I logged onto my computer to find that TheBurg had won six Keystone Press Awards, the pre-eminent journalism awards for Pennsylvania newspapers.

My senior staff writer, Paul Barker, won three: for personality profile (first place), feature story (second place) and investigative reporting (second place). My creative director Megan Davis won for page design (second place) and, with illustrator Nick Sider, for illustration (second place). I won a first-place award for column writing.

Some people place a great deal of importance in these awards, others don't. I suppose I fall somewhere in the middle, as I'm honored by the recognition but realize that all judging is subjective.

Nonetheless, I believe the awards represent a milestone for this still-young, evolving publication. Yes, they are professional affirmation from our peers in journalism, who may have never heard of TheBurg before judging our work. Better still, they tell us that we're succeeding in our mission to publish a high-quality product for the people of greater Harrisburg.

I hope you'll find our May issue indicative of the high bar we set for ourselves. I hope, just as much, that you'll find that we're serving this community with care, accuracy and fairness.

LAWRANCE BINDA  
Editor-in-Chief



GENERAL AND LETTERS

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# FOR THE CITY

*This election cycle, candidates need to embrace a smart, pro-urban agenda.*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

TheBurg tries to bring engaged community reporting to you every month.

We attempt to tell local stories about the 95 percent of what is right in our area, not only the 5 percent that is wrong. Where we point out problems, we try to focus on contextual analysis and concrete suggestions about how to make things better for Harrisburg and the region.

However, one of the major challenges for Harrisburg—similar to the struggles of many small urban areas in Pennsylvania—is that, far too often, the small urban core is highly dependent on policies, economic structures and laws that are beyond the control of city government and its citizens.

Harrisburg, for instance, has less than 10 percent of the population of the larger Metropolitan Statistic Area (MSA) (fewer than 50,000 residents compared to more than 600,000 in the surrounding region). Locally, Lancaster and York cities are similarly around 10 percent (York) and 11 percent (Lancaster) of the population of their surrounding counties. The wider regions can and do thrive economically, while problems get concentrated in the relatively small, poorer urban cores.

These arbitrary political boundaries are part of a legacy derived loosely from a German city-state government model, as opposed to a British (county) system used by other states (and perhaps a subject of a future column). Nonetheless, they have very real and current effects on the day-to-day operation of our city and similar cities throughout the commonwealth.

So, it is no wonder that cities across Pennsylvania have multiple problems at the municipal level. Recently, as many as 26 municipalities across the state have been under Act 47, and many others are similarly distressed. While the state-appointed receiver recently ceded his power back to local government in Harrisburg, the city remains under Act 47.

If we are to hope that Harrisburg returns to long-term fiscal health, municipal leaders need to do the hard work here locally, much of which is underway due to the Harrisburg Strong Plan, but we also need to fight for better statewide and regional policies. In that spirit, here are my “Top 5” issues that I hope to hear more about in the fall legislative and gubernatorial campaigns.

**1. Reform the public school funding formula.** As I have mentioned in this space before, one of the principal impediments to economic growth in Harrisburg is the tax rate on real estate. At a total of 45 mils (30 mils from the school district alone), a homeowner with a house assessed at \$100,000 faces a \$4,500 annual tax bill. These rates make it nearly impossible to build new housing in Harrisburg without other incentives. Other states—like Michigan—have faced similar burdens and have shifted away from real estate taxes as the primary funding source for public schools. We should do that in PA.

**2. Reform municipal pensions.** One of the greatest costs faced by municipal government is the health care and pension costs of retired city workers. These contracts and rules are often beyond the power of local officials to deal with, but are projected to reach nearly 30 percent of the entire city budget in some cities like Allentown as early as 2015. A statewide solution to this issue must be implemented for cities like Harrisburg to thrive.

**3. Land banking of vacant properties.** Pittsburgh just passed a new “Land Bank” proposal that has the support of its popular new Mayor Bill Peduto. Harrisburg has a long-standing program to acquire and demolish or restore distressed properties, but it suffers from a severe lack of funding. The budget for 2014, for instance, will be largely consumed by one recent structure that fell on its neighbors and required immediate removal. A state program that provides long-term, low- or no-interest loans (or better, grants) to cities for the purpose of blight removal, land banking and re-use/restoration would go a long way toward addressing blight issues throughout the state.

**4. Repair public works.** Major public works, such as Riverfront Park’s river walk in Harrisburg, are in need of repair and refurbishment. These public spaces are enjoyed by a wide variety of citizens throughout the area. By involving the county, region and state in the maintenance and care of these important public amenities, the burden easily can be shared by all who enjoy them, not merely the ones who choose to live in the municipality where they are located.

**5. Take action on tax-exempt properties.** The argument that non-profits should be free riders that do not pay for police and fire protection, road maintenance and the like and, thus, are exempt from city property taxes, is difficult to maintain as cities come under increased stress to pay for these services. If school funding were handled by implementing suggestion No. 1, this change would be far less painful for existing non-profits. Mayor Rick Gray in Lancaster recently addressed this problem as one of his top issues. Harrisburg Mayor Eric Papenfuse has mentioned it as one of his options for closing the city budget gap in Harrisburg in 2014. However, both leaders are largely reduced to trying to persuade civic-minded non-profit leaders to make payments in lieu of taxes (so-called PILOTs). Providing municipalities with the ability to require payments for police and fire would dramatically work to relieve and more equitably share the burden of local government services.

These are just a few of the many issues that could help Pennsylvania revitalize its small towns and cities to the benefit of all of us. Hopefully, we will hear these issues discussed this year.

*J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.*

## GRAND JURY PROBES CITY FINANCES

A state grand jury has been empaneled to investigate the various dealings that led to Harrisburg’s financial crisis.

Mayor Eric Papenfuse last month confirmed that he recently testified before the grand jury, which reportedly is meeting in Pittsburgh. He would not give specifics of his testimony.

City officials and former receivers William Lynch and David Unkovic all have supported criminal investigations into how the city wound up on the verge of bankruptcy, largely due to crippling debt tied to the city incinerator.

Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico turned the matter over to state Attorney General Kathleen Kane after citing a possible conflict of interest in the case.

The grand jury probe appears to be wide-ranging. Investigators have taken large quantities of documents both from City Hall and the school district, according to sources.

In City Hall, many of the documents were discovered in locked filing cabinets and in locked closets that were opened after Papenfuse took office in January, sources said.

After its investigation is complete, the grand jury will recommend whether to file charges in the case. The prosecutor then determines whether or not to issue indictments.

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## COUNCILWOMAN EUGENIA SMITH DIES

Councilwoman Eugenia Smith died suddenly last month at age 53.

Smith, a lifelong city resident, died at Harrisburg Hospital after suffering a heart attack. She had begun her second term on City Council in January and was chair of the council’s Public Safety Committee.

“This is deeply shocking,” said Mayor Eric Papenfuse. “I share the pain and loss that people throughout our city assuredly feel as we try to absorb this sudden news. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.”

Council now must fill the open seat. City residents have until May 2 to submit applications, and a brief, public interview will follow. After nominations by council members, a final vote is slated for May 12. The new council member will serve until January 2016.

Judith Hill, Harrisburg’s first African-American councilwoman, also died last month.





## FIREFIGHTER CONTRACT APPROVED

Harrisburg City Council last month approved an agreement with the firefighter's union designed to save the city about \$70,000 a month.

The contract sets up a 14/1 shift, meaning that 14 firefighters and one commander will be on duty across the city at all times. Previously, the department operated with 16 firefighters and one commander for each shift.

The contract changes should significantly reduce firefighter overtime, a key element in city and state efforts to bring Harrisburg's budget into balance.

The city last month also proposed closing the aging Paxton Fire Co. station in Shipoke. This proposal, an outgrowth of the new contract, caused concern among some residents, leading the Papenfuse administration to hold a community meeting to explain its plan.

Former Mayor Linda Thompson also had proposed closing the station, but dropped the idea after encountering resistance.

## MAYOR MOVES TO REPLACE VENNO

Mayor Eric Papenfuse has asked the state to replace Gene Veno as chief recovery officer for the school district.

Papenfuse last month said he met with state Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumesque to "express his alarm at the lack of progress at improving academic standards" in city schools and request that Veno be replaced.

"My concern is that Mr. Veno does not believe Harrisburg schools will meet academic benchmarks under the plan he devised," he said. "This is unacceptable and compromises the future of our children."

Papenfuse also came out in support of Key Charter School, which wishes to locate in the old Bishop McDevitt High School at 2200 Market St. The school board, which has rejected many charter school applications in recent years, must approve Key's application.

"There should be a sense of urgency about these under-performing schools," Papenfuse said, "and parents ought to have other possibilities to ensure their children are well educated and ready for the workplace. Harrisburg's economic recovery won't succeed unless we have an educated workforce ready to claim the jobs that will be created."



## "MARY K" MANSIONS SELL

A decade-long saga came to a close last month as the "Mary K mansions" sold at auction for a total of \$756,000 to two buyers from the west shore.

On a sunny, cool day, multiple bidders dueled for about 2 1/2 hours at the outdoor auction, held on one of the four lots near the corner of Front and Manor streets.

In the end, Mike and Sally Wilson of Lisburn paid \$361,000 for two of the properties at 2909 and 2917 N. Front St. Rob Edwards of Dillsburg paid \$395,000 for 2901 N. Front St., which includes a large house and a parking lot off of Division Street.

Mike Wilson, the owner of Integral Construction, said that he and his wife intend to renovate and live in the mansion at 2909 N. Front, but he wasn't sure what they'd do with 2917 N. Front, a dilapidated building that long served as an office building.

Edwards said he had no plans yet for his properties. He said he often buys and sells properties at auction and was attracted to these houses because of the location on the river.

Previous owner Mary Knackstedt bought the properties in 2004, planning to raze them and build a 32-unit condominium development. However, her land use plan met fierce resistance in the neighborhood, and City Council ultimately rejected it.

She later defaulted on her mortgages and declared bankruptcy. A last-ditch effort last year to sell the properties for \$2.5 million failed, leading to the auction.

## ILLEGAL GUN PROJECT LAUNCHED

Harrisburg and Dauphin County are teaming up to increase penalties for carrying illegal weapons.

Under the "\$100K Illegal Gun Project," Harrisburg police officers and the county district attorney's office will request that courts set bail at a minimum of \$100,000 for anyone charged with illegally carrying a firearm.

The bail amount would be recommended for felons who are prohibited from carrying a gun and for anyone carrying one on themselves or in their vehicle without a license, according to a joint city/county announcement.

In addition, police and prosecutors will request juvenile detention for any juvenile older than 15 who is charged with illegally carrying a firearm.

## HISTORIC TRAIN MOVED

The historic GG1 Pennsylvania railroad locomotive No. 4859 was temporarily moved from its spot at the Harrisburg Transportation Center last month to a siding 1,000 feet west of the station.

Rail enthusiasts gathered to watch and take photos of the GG1 locomotive and caboose, which were moved so that Amtrak could continue its \$36 million project to improve power, signals, track and switches in the station.

An Amtrak locomotive pushed the GG1 and caboose to a siding near the 7th Street garage about 1/4-mile away. The locomotive then was "shrink-wrapped" to protect it from the elements until it can be moved back to its current location.

The GG1 served the Harrisburg station on service to Philadelphia and New York between 1938 and 1981. It was located at the station as a memorial to that service in 1986, designated as the official state locomotive and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society maintains both No. 4859 and the caboose.

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- Disbrow St., 97: J. Handy Jr. to J. Hobbs, \$45,000
- Duke St., 2452: PA Deals LLC to M. & D. Graeff, \$68,000
- Harris St., 230: Fannie Mae to Klimke Holdings LLC, \$51,000
- Jefferson St., 2241: Kirsch & Burns LLC to LMK Properties LLC, \$45,000
- Manada St., 1918: K. & J. Frobenius to 2013 Central PA Real Estate LLC, \$55,000
- Market St., 1827: K. Frobenius et al to 2013 Central PA Real Estate Fund LLC, \$55,000
- North St., 231, 233, 235: F. Galiardo Realty Management Associates LLC to Murphy & Laus Real Estate LLC, \$325,000
- N. 2nd St., 817: R. Baker to HCH Investments LP, \$127,000
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- N. 6th St., 2013: Sixth Street Clover Club to Victor Ventures, \$30,000
- N. 16th St., 921: J. & V. Waid to Equity Trust Co., \$38,250
- N. Front St., 1107: J. Farrell to M. Perrone, \$184,900
- Parkway Blvd., 2507: R. Zogby & L. Sfier to B. & B. Reid, \$120,000
- Pepper St., 214: BFI LP to M. Magaro et al, \$51,000
- Penn St., 1424: R. Benton to R. Essig, \$30,000
- Penn St., 2315: BFI LP to M. Magaro et al, \$36,000
- Regina St., 1849: J. Vogelsong to D. Moore Sr., \$40,000
- Rolleston St., 1315 & 1411: S & R Estates LLC to Keystone RH LLC, \$890,000
- Rudy Rd., 2400: Secretary of Housing & Urban Development to J. & M. Caulfield, \$90,000
- S. 14th St., 361: J. Rodriguez to Urena Diaz Property, \$33,000
- S. 15th St., 438: J. Vogelsong to D. Moore Sr., \$30,000
- S. 16th St., 336: Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority & Tri-County HDC to L. Wilson, \$101,000
- S. 20th St., 1226: G. & H. Fabiankovitz to R. & G. MacWhinnie, \$110,000
- S. 25th St., 713: Fannie Mae to S. Mosley, \$50,500
- S. 26th St., 710: Fannie Mae to S. Mirenda, \$62,500
- S. 27th St., 724: E. & R. Kolp to S. Armstrong & P. Hudson, \$125,000
- Walnut St., 1261: JP Morgan Chase Bank NA to G & G Property Services LLC, \$35,000

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

chuckleBURG .....

By Binda/Barker.  
Illustration by Nick Sider.



“The search for Harrisburg’s long-missing files comes to a surprising end.”

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18. Margaret Haag, @mhstudios
19. Lance Jones, @kuhmealyen
20. Rubicon, @rubiconhbg



# HARRISBURG NEEDS PEOPLE

*We should welcome change, not fear it.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA



About a week after I moved to Harrisburg, I decided to take a long walk through downtown and Midtown to get a feel for my new city.

From my house on Front Street, I hiked up 2nd Street then looped around to 3rd, past the Capitol, across Forster, up past the Broad Street Market and home again.

After my journey, I had an uneasy feeling that can be best summarized by the following: “What is the deal with this place?”

I had been to Harrisburg before, but had never looked at it or thought about it from the perspective of a resident, of someone who planned to stay and make it his home.

But it wasn't so much the unrestored buildings that I passed that bothered me, or the trash in the streets, or the ugliness and perilous vibe of Forster Street. I was most unnerved by the sense of desolation, the fact that I was the only person on the street for much of my walk.

“It's like a neutron bomb went off,” I told a friend who lives in Washington, D.C., where I had come from. “There are all these buildings, but no people.”

Granted, it was a cold January day, but it also was the center of a city, right near the Capitol building, a place that should have been busy in the middle of the afternoon. But it wasn't, and the surreal, eerie sense of isolation I felt only grew as I headed back to Midtown.

Five years later, the situation has improved somewhat. I see more people about, even during the past nasty winter, helped by the opening of several terrific businesses and the renovation of a few historic buildings.

That said, when someone asks me what Harrisburg most needs, my answer is quick and unwavering: *Harrisburg needs people.*

## EMPTY SPACES

That's why I found the recent discussion about gentrification to be so puzzling. Harrisburg has many problems, from crime to infrastructure woes to service delivery challenges. Population displacement is not among them.

Look around almost any neighborhood. What do you see? Empty lots, places where houses and buildings used to be. There are empty lots downtown used for parking; empty lots in Midtown used for nothing; empty lots all over Allison Hill and Southside. There's a large, empty lot right outside my office window.

Fifty years ago, people went in and out of buildings on these lots each day, all day long. Take a look at page 16 of last month's issue, and you'll see a century-old aerial view of the neighborhood around the Broad Street Market, commercial and residential buildings packed into every inch of space, places where people resided, shopped and socialized—lived their lives.

What's there today? Two large, empty fields, a parking lot, some low-density housing. In some cases, ghosts of the past remain, historic buildings struggling to find new purpose.

Throughout the city, buildings are underutilized. Some are empty; others exist as shadows of what they once were; a number are tumbling down. Harrisburg is a city built for 100,000 people. It has half that population today.

These lots, abandoned buildings and barely habitable structures are just waiting for someone to want them. The day there is demand, developers will rush in, seizing them from the city's army of slumlords and negligent owners and giving them new purpose and function. Harrisburg has a long, long way to go before so much land is redeveloped that displacement is a serious issue.

## AMAZING RENAISSANCE

About 15 years ago, former Washington Mayor Anthony Williams declared a goal to increase his city's population by 100,000 people. Like many American cities, D.C. had long suffered the ravages of disinvestment and blight and, as a consequence, had lost a large percentage of its population, though never proportionally as much as Harrisburg.

At the time, Washington's alternative newspaper, *The City Paper*, in its usual snarky way, poked fun at

Williams' grand ambition by creating (if memory serves) what it called a “Tony-O-Meter.”

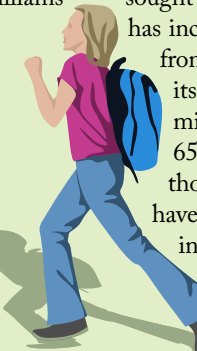
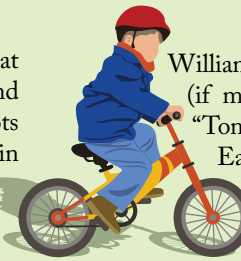
Each week, it documented some event (a crime, a subway breakdown, a dumb thing a City Council member said, etc.) and then made up a number to sarcastically show how many people the city had gained or lost as a result. Williams' image was plastered to the face of this meter, with a pointer fluttering over it to represent the weekly fictional changes in the populace.

But you know what? The city achieved exactly what Williams sought to do. Washington has increased its population from about 550,000 at its low point in the mid-1990s to about 650,000 today. And those additional people have brought money and investment that has led to an amazing urban renaissance. Harrisburg reminds me a lot

of Washington back in the 1990s, during Williams' day. Back then, D.C., like Harrisburg today, was just emerging from an historic financial crisis, with fresh leadership that refused to be deterred by cynics, armchair critics or by those who perversely wanted to keep the city down so they could continue to profit from its misery.

Harrisburg can plant the seeds of its own revival. But, to make it happen, we need to attract, not be afraid of, people and the investment and change they'll bring. We have to be welcoming, a place where people will want to live, work and visit. We need to focus on making Harrisburg better and more prosperous, not become complacent or cynical or, even worse, distracted by phony controversies that get us nowhere. **B**

*Lawrance Binda is editor-in-chief of TheBurg.*







— 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL —

**plein air**

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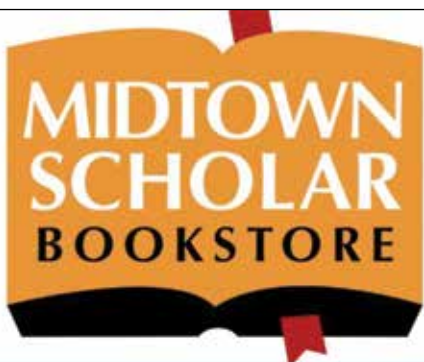
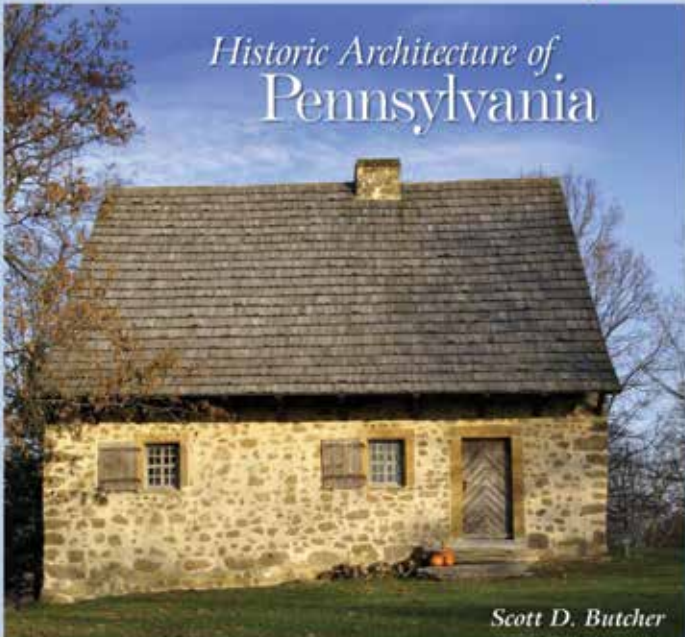
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# A REASONABLE BALANCE

*City, citizens share the job of making Harrisburg function.*

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

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*"It is now the moment when by common consent we pause to become conscious of our national life and to rejoice in it, to recall what our country has done for each of us, and to ask ourselves what we can do for our country in return."*

---

John F. Kennedy paraphrased this original statement by Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes into what most of us are more familiar with:

*"And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."*

Kennedy's quote, in particular, has been explicitly and implicitly directed to the people of Harrisburg more than once over the past few years. The onus becomes ask not what your city can do for you, but what you can do for your city.

While it's an eternal statement that evokes a sense of civic responsibility and loyalty, for some Harrisburg residents, it's increasingly losing its power.

Right now, there is a high demand being put on the citizens of Harrisburg, and that demand is spreading to citizens beyond the city's limits, and logically so, because Harrisburg does not exist in isolation of its surroundings.

It exists as the capital city of Pennsylvania, in the County of Dauphin, center of the region. Thus, it makes sense that, as a region, we are being asked to be patient, to be helpful, and to be willing to sacrifice for the good of the capital city and its future.

Yet what about the other part of the equation?

As we recall what the city has done for us, it's difficult to be motivated to give even more than we already have when the balance of give-and-take feels so askew.

In return for our patience, aid and sacrifice, what is it that we can expect from the city of Harrisburg? Such a loaded question.

To be sure, the answer will depend on who is asked. Increasingly, though, to many residents, commuters and visitors, the answer is simple.

Each and every citizen expects to be safe and sound. Beyond the obvious services of police and fire, we must recognize what else is included in public safety and well-being. It encompasses not only a sense of protection from harm, but also clean and sanitary streets, well-lit ways, defense against blight and sound infrastructure.

These are the basics that we citizens pay for, the cost

of our taxes for the services of safety and well-being. Ideally, the services should at least equal the cost. This is what the city should be able to guarantee us in return for our residency, along with our patience, aid and sacrifice.

The perception, though, is that we are not guaranteed these basic services, and, unfortunately, reality keeps giving us examples proving that perception to be true.

The trash, the blight, the broken and burnt-out lights, pitted streets and the negligent property owners—these are signs of the demise of a city.

Absolutely, the good stuff exists here in Harrisburg, but it's tough for it to persevere when the basics seem to be slipping between the cracks of disintegration.

Unmistakably, it's going to take the efforts of everyone—citizens and government—to make the city prevail over its challenges.

However, who should do what? What is up to the citizens, and what is up to the government?

Currently, those lines are blurry.

Out of City Hall, we hear a variety of news, but, when it comes down to it, public trash cans overflow, blight continues to rot, lights aren't on, streets worsen and property ordinances are profusely neglected.

Of course, we all know there is a deficient city workforce to accomplish all that needs done.

With a lack of people in place to do it all, it's essential the lines of duty and action be as clear as possible.

Residents, business owners, commuters and visitors need to be encouraged to do their part—to pick up litter, to follow the laws, to report wrongdoings and to hold the city accountable.

And, on the city's part, it needs to focus its efforts to empty the trash cans, turn on the lights, fix the streets and enforce the rules.

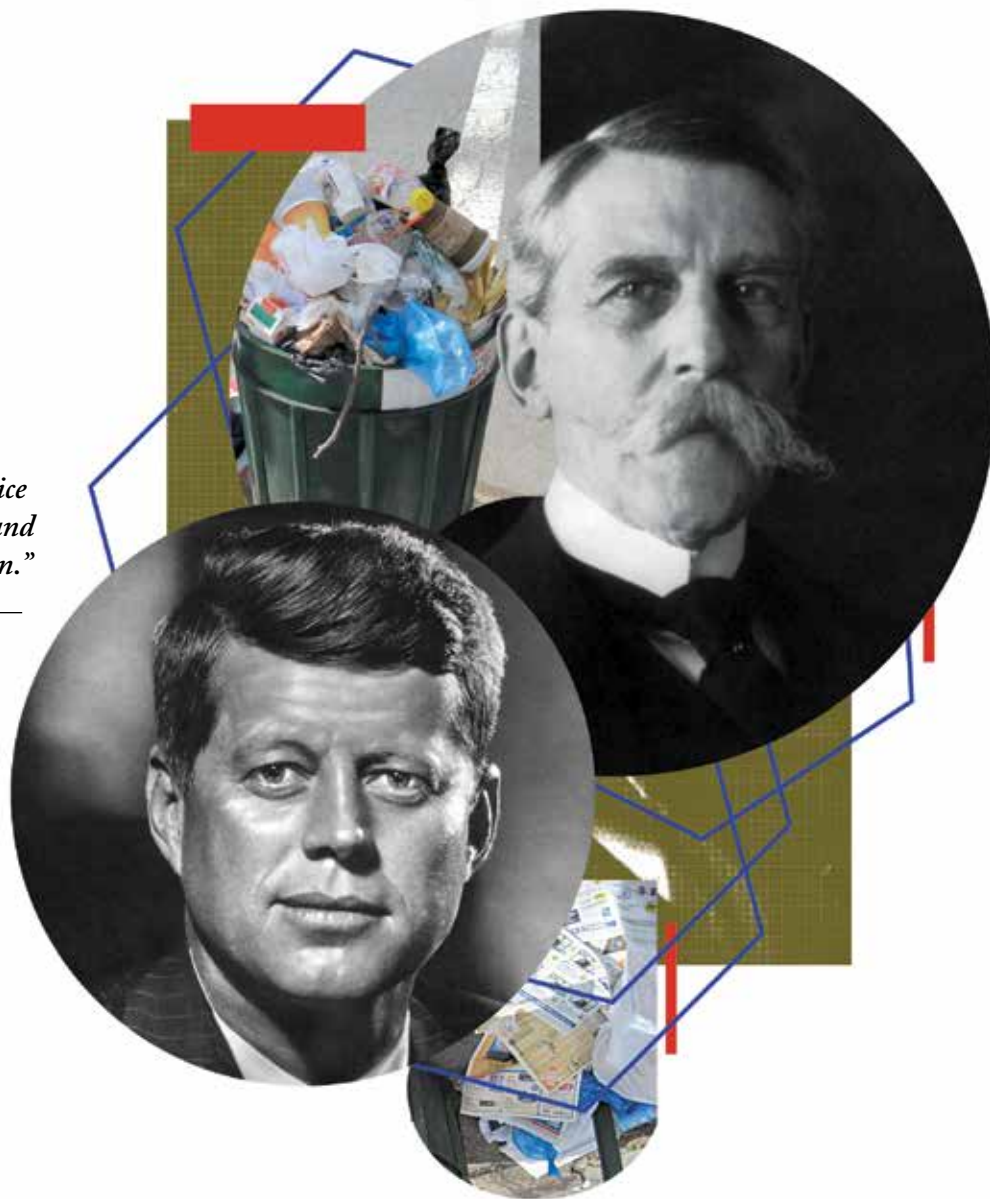
We must strike a reasonable balance of duty and action.

Otherwise, the potential prosperity of this capital city—a symbol of national governance and American independence—will be threatened by delinquency and excessive demand on the public.

Then both Holmes and Kennedy will undoubtedly roll over in their graves each time someone quotes them here in Harrisburg. **B**

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





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**HARRISBURG**  
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

It's almost time for the 16th Annual Harrisburg Young Professionals Home Tour! This year we will feature more than fifteen homes, apartments, and historic buildings in Harrisburg's Downtown neighborhood. Following the tour, we hope you can join us for food, fun and entertainment at the Skyline Sports Complex Pavilion on City Island for the after party featuring All Jacked Up.

IDs will be checked at the door to the after party. Must be 21 or older to consume alcohol. Home Tour Ticket includes admission to the Harrisburg City Islanders vs Phoenix Wolves FC. Kick off at 7:00pm.

Registration is in the parking lot area on City Island  
To purchase tickets, visit [www.HYP.org](http://www.HYP.org)

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# AFTER THE FALL

*A church collapse, a bishop's arrest and the mayor's crackdown on blight.*

BY PAUL BARKER

**O**n the night of Feb. 21, just after 6 p.m., the Harrisburg fire department responded to a call about the partial collapse of a building on S. 12th Street, near the border between Harrisburg and Steelton.

The building, a three-story brick warehouse on a steeply sloping road above S. Cameron, had been abandoned for several years. Its south wall, covered in scraggly vegetation, had long showed a 10-foot-by-5-foot hole from a prior collapse. This time, the roof had caved in, dragging power lines down onto a neighbor's porch and spilling bricks from the north wall into a nearby yard.

Crews evacuated two families from a neighboring property and searched the premises for squatters. More than an hour later, around 7:40 p.m., police arrived with the building's owner, a 48-year-old pastor named Augustus Sullivan. Sullivan is the founder of the Victory Outreach Christian Church, which had once called the building home. Tall and fit, with closely shaved salt-and-pepper hair and a trim goatee, he showed up wearing a baseball cap and a nondescript puffy coat. Most of the reporters on the scene appear not to have recognized him. Ewa Roman, with CBS21, later recalled hearing a small commotion, followed by a voice saying, "The owner's here, the owner's here." News cameras surrounded Sullivan, filming and taking pictures while officers led him in handcuffs to a police van.

A few days before the collapse, at a public forum in city hall, Harrisburg's new mayor, Eric Papenfuse,

had promised to take a harder line on blight. The forum, hosted by PennLive, featured a panel discussion with the mayor, the police chief, the public works director and members of City Council. It covered topics ranging from snow removal to police patrols and potholes.

When the moderator brought up blight, Papenfuse laid out his vision for enforcement. It included merging the city's codes office into the police department and conducting warrant sweeps to catch known offenders. It also included increasing misdemeanor charges for negligent property owners, for things like creating a public nuisance and reckless endangerment. "In many cases we know who the largest offenders are, we know where they live, and it's simply a matter of going out and, basically, getting them," Papenfuse said.

On Friday night, police stood outside long enough for Sullivan, ball cap removed, to be photographed and filmed by news media. He was ultimately charged with three misdemeanors: public nuisance, reckless endangerment and failure to prevent a catastrophe. After his arrest, the fire chief held an impromptu press conference at the scene, during which he adopted the same tough stance as the mayor. "I think this should send a resounding message to the slumlords in the city of Harrisburg that we will no longer play the game with you," he said. "We are going to come after you, and we are going to make the city right again."

On Monday, the city released a stack of records

showing a series of codes violations for the church going back to 2008. By that point, a clearer picture had emerged of exactly whom the city had arrested. Sullivan, who formally goes by the title The Apostle Dr. A. E. Sullivan, Jr., is the president of the Interdenominational Ministers Conference of Greater Harrisburg, a politically active association of black preachers. In the fall, he had spoken out forcefully against the state-appointed receiver's recovery plan for the city. He had even shown up in Commonwealth Court to protest its confirmation, though he filed no formal objection. In early 2013, it was rumored that he had contemplated running for mayor.

Sullivan's arrest polarized the community. Some saw a justly harsh response to dangerous negligence—the collapse would ultimately displace nine people for more than a month. But others saw a politically motivated attempt to humiliate a prominent black leader. The day after the arrest, Sullivan's attorney told a reporter for PennLive that her client had no knowledge that the building was unsound. She would later complain of "disparate treatment," citing a "long list of people" facing similar violations who were not arrested in the same manner. (Sullivan has since filed a civil complaint, alleging that, when the city eventually demolished the church, it did so without proper notice and at an excessively high cost.)

It's one thing to make a campaign promise, and another actually to follow through, especially





when doing so implicates people with deep ties in the community you serve. In the weeks after the collapse, Papenfuse stood by his officers while Sullivan's supporters rallied. The mayor's crackdown on blight, barely inscribed as policy, was facing its first real test.

A week and a half before the collapse, Sullivan was preaching in a church in São Marcos, a town in the southernmost state of Brazil. He had arrived that morning, Tuesday, Feb. 11, and would stay in the country for nearly a week, preaching in and around the state capital, Porto Alegre. His host for the trip, a pastor named Mauro Lastra, recorded his itinerary in a guestbook on Sullivan's website. According to Lastra, Sullivan mostly preached in the evening, in services that ran until midnight or later, and that often included weeping, speaking in tongues, "healings" and "deliverances." "The service ended and no one wanted to leave," Lastra wrote of one church visit, from which the pastors didn't return home until 4 a.m. "The Ap. Sullivan was praying one by one until all are blessed by God."

The Brazil visit was one of the several international trips Sullivan has made in recent years, in his capacity as the CEO of Apostle A. E. Sullivan Global Ministries. On his website, Sullivan identifies himself as the "Founder, Chief Apostle, Senior Bishop & Presiding Prelate" of a global network that includes "over 5,750 churches in 54 nations." In 2010, according to a related Facebook

page, he went on a "gospel crusade" to Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In November of 2012, he traveled to the Caribbean for 18 days, visiting places like St. Kitts and the Cayman Islands. In June of 2013, he spent 11 days in the Philippines; in November, he traveled to Paris and Brussels.

It's not clear whether Sullivan funded these trips on his own or through his corporation. Although the Global Ministries is a registered non-profit in the state of Pennsylvania, it was only incorporated last October, and there's little public record of its activities. Before each trip, however, the network would petition Facebook followers for financial assistance, referred to as a "love gift" or "seed." The fundraising was usually explicitly about Sullivan's international ministry; in requesting checks for the trip to Paris, for example, supporters were instructed to put "Attn: Crusade to France" on the envelope. But the checks were usually to be made out to an entity closer to home—the Victory Outreach Christian Church.

Sullivan founded the V.O.C.C. in January of 1999. His church was non-denominational and formed in the evangelical mold, with a strong reliance on scriptural interpretation and a tone of revivalist fervor. "We are anticipating a mighty move of God," the church's Facebook page says in one post. "God is confirming His word with signs & wonders following," it says in another. His services often featured "altar calls," during which people

in attendance come forward to the preacher and publicly recommit themselves to Jesus Christ. In a photo of one altar call, during his trip to Brazil, a small crowd presses towards Sullivan, their eyes closed and their arms raised. In the center is a woman with a stricken look. Sullivan, his back to the camera, reaches out to touch her cheek.

Sullivan's formal religious training took place at the Grace Bible Institute, a school of theology that opened around the same time as the V.O.C.C., initially operating out of a church basement in Steelton. (In his resume, Sullivan also claims to have graduated from the Interdenominational Theological Center, a consortium of historically black seminaries in Atlanta, although the ITC's registrar had no record of this.) Isaac Edwards, a graduate of the Grace Bible Institute whose father, Peter Edwards, was its founder and president, told me the school had an open-ended style of instruction, emphasizing that many matters of religion were "up for interpretation." Its curriculum drew on the work of various Protestant theologians, especially Charles Hodge, a leading figure in a 19th-century tradition known as the Princeton Theology, which emphasized scholarship and devotion to the Bible.

Grace Bible Institute had a brief tenure. Isaac told me it was "hard to get people to pay" their tuition, and after his mother died in 2005, his father closed the school. While it lasted, Grace also seems to have struggled with a tension, not unheard of in religious studies, between the anxiety over official recognition





Illustration by Nick Sider

and the primacy of personal faith. In one sense, the thinkers who inspired its creation spurned the need for official endorsement. Another theologian who featured prominently in studies at Grace was John Wycliffe, the 14th-century English reformer who, in a rejection of Roman Catholic hierarchy, encouraged a movement of itinerant preachers who lacked any formal consecration. At the same time, like other institutes of higher education, Grace offered bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. It sought accreditation, and, according to Isaac, received it, though the agency he referred me to, TransWorld Accrediting Commission, claimed never to have heard of the school.

In the summer of 1999, Sullivan moved his church into the property on S. 12th Street. After the collapse, it was reported that the building was 117 years old, but Ken Frew, with the Dauphin County Historical Society, says it might be significantly older. An 1871 city map identifies a brick building on the site as the Lochiel School, which educated the children of immigrant workers at the nearby Lochiel Iron Works. Apparently it was conceived as a market house, with an auditorium on an upper floor, but that purpose was quickly abandoned. In 1909, students relocated to the new Foose School on S. 13th Street, after years of what a Harrisburg Telegraph article described as “many severe criticisms” of the 12th Street building’s “poor adaptation for school purposes.” The paper said people called it the “old barn.” Sometime after the students left, it became a candy factory. In 1967, Cumberland Electronics

bought it, and it spent 26 years as a warehouse, storing TV antennas and vacuum tubes.

By the time Sullivan’s V.O.C.C. held services there, the building had been a church for several years. Initially, Sullivan rented the space from a Spanish-language congregation that had bought it in 1993. In 2004, Sullivan entered an agreement to purchase the building for \$25,000—\$10,000 upfront, plus three-and-a-half years of interest-free monthly installments of \$350. The agreement included a clause acknowledging the property’s “good condition” at the time of sale, although David Rodriguez, a reverend with the Spanish church, told me that bricks were already falling down when the building changed hands. “They told me they were going to renovate,” he said.

In July of 2008, about a year later than expected, the V.O.C.C. finally finished its monthly payments, and Rodriguez deeded the building to Sullivan. The trouble with the city’s codes department began almost immediately. In October, the fire bureau forwarded a complaint that bricks were falling from the building’s south wall. A codes inspector named Charles Jenakovich paid a visit and filed a notice of non-compliance. A month and a half later, after Sullivan took no action, he returned and issued a citation. “Extremely hazardous condition as bricks falling from over 30 feet onto public area,” he wrote. A couple of months later, in January of 2009, the city condemned the building.

The paper trail following the condemnation order is

a good study in the frustrations of codes enforcement. Per the order, the V.O.C.C. had to cease use of the building immediately and, within 20 days, obtain permits for either demolishing the property or bringing it up to code. Sullivan acknowledged the order within a couple of days, eventually obtaining a \$50,000 bid from a renovations company for necessary repairs. But after that, Sullivan appears to have done nothing further for more than a year. The next citation is dated April 23, 2010, when Jenakovich visited and noted a “[f]ailure to repair or demolish unsafe structure.”

The first delay was only the beginning. For the next year, Jenakovich issued citation upon citation, about once every two months, as Sullivan continued to do nothing. Codes citations work like parking tickets: the owner can plead guilty and pay the fine, or he can appeal, but the city will continue citing until the underlying issue—the illegally parked car, the property’s non-compliance—is resolved. There is a way to ramp up the pressure: upon the fifth guilty plea, the citation becomes a misdemeanor. But unfortunately, as with parking tickets, building citations can also be ignored, at which point enforcement depends on the district judge.

In April of 2011, the church building suffered another partial collapse. On April 25, Jenakovich issued a final citation—his ninth since the condemnation. David Patton, the city’s codes administrator, wrote to Pierre Ritter, then the police chief, requesting a reckless endangerment charge. That same month, Sullivan’s wife had



passed away, and, according to Patton, then-Mayor Linda Thompson postponed enforcement, saying that Sullivan needed time. Patton recalls telling Thompson he was sorry about Sullivan's wife, but then adding, "Some people are going to join her if we don't do something."

On June 2, 2011, Sullivan met with city officials and Thompson, who granted him 30 days to come up with a plan. Once again, Sullivan stalled. In early August, Patton emailed Thompson's director of building and housing, Jack Robinson: "The time for him to do something has way expired. I need to know what's going on." On Aug. 17, a passerby called to alert the city that bricks were falling from the building and the barricade had been removed. On Oct. 7, Patton sent another email to Robinson: "Bishop Sullivan has yet to do anything about his deteriorating property...As we approach the freeze thaw season, my fear is that there will be a collapse...again."

Finally, in late October of 2011, Sullivan obtained a structural analysis of the church, which determined that the building was salvageable but had "a number of major structural deficiencies." In addition to the partially collapsed wall, the engineer also noted that the roof was caving in and that the floors on the lower stories were insufficiently supported. A month later, at the behest of the city, a York-based contractor provided a demolition estimate of \$212,000.

At some point, Sullivan seems to have gotten the impression that the city would delay enforcement indefinitely while he sought funding for repairs. In February of 2012, after a few failed attempts to find financing and four months of inaction on the property, he met with PNC Bank. A week later, he wrote to Patton: "We talked about a number of things but some of these things do not move as fast as we like. Bankers and banking moves at a pace all of its own unfortunately." He seems to have placed a higher priority on other parts of his ministry. In one Facebook post, from March of 2013, Sullivan directed followers to verses in Matthew and II Timothy "to firmly see & accurately know that we are living in 'the last days' and 'the end times.'"

"I didn't understand how somebody so vocal in the community could be doing this," Patton told me. During a site visit, one of his officers noticed that the V.O.C.C.'s signs had been removed from the building. They assumed Sullivan was trying to dissociate himself from the property. Feeling no support from the mayor, Patton kept a subfolder of email correspondence and other records on the building—in the event of a collapse, he wanted a record of his efforts.

After Sullivan filed his civil suit, many of the folder's contents wound up appended to the city's objections. At the bottom of the file is an email Patton sent to Mayor Thompson, dated Feb. 12, 2013. The church property, he wrote, was "getting worse," and he had managed to track down Sullivan's home address. "I have 5 warrants for his arrest," he concluded. "Permission to execute." The mayor did not reply. (In a March 21 interview with abc27, Mayor Thompson said she had given

Sullivan "no preferential treatment," though she did acknowledge working with him while he sought "financial aid.")

Patton, who continued paying visits to the site, told me he had a feeling something would happen this year. "It was really plaguing my mind, that someone would get hurt," he said. I thought of a clip from Fox43's coverage the night of the collapse, in which one of the evacuated neighbors, rattled and on the verge of tears, wonders in fragmented English about what might have happened if the church fell another way. "How many families, you know?" she says. "We can die."

In the weeks after the collapse, the church community rallied behind Sullivan. As president of the Interdenominational Ministers Conference, Sullivan had close ties to local black church leaders, several of whom complained about the city's response. Among those church leaders was the Rev. Earl Harris, one of the IMC's vice presidents and the longtime pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

On Sunday, March 16, St. Paul's hosted a summit for regional civil rights leaders, union organizers, clergy members and other community leaders. The event was originally slated to discuss anti-union measures in the state legislature, but, by the time it arrived, Sullivan's arrest had become part of the program. "Come Hear the Community Response to the Unprecedented

Handling of a Community Leader Bishop A.E. Sullivan of the IMC," one event poster said.

At the summit, a long succession of speakers took to the podium, including Rick Bloomingdale, the president of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, several local pastors, and Jerry Mondesire, the president of the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP. (Mondesire has since been suspended, following

an inquiry into his alleged financial mismanagement of his chapter.) State Rep. Patty Kim, whose district includes Harrisburg, and who meets regularly with Mayor Papenfuse, offered a word of support for Sullivan that was noticeably hedged: "I wish he wasn't the one to be an example of a slum landlord."

Harris, when he spoke, described the mayor's actions as "bullying." He worked up to a climactic conclusion, urging people to translate their anger into political action. "We need to band together, we need to raise finances together, we need to

make sure that this man gets the message that he will never do this again," he said. "And if he keeps this attitude, if he doesn't change it, we need to drive him out of office!" The crowd erupted with applause.

Two weeks later, I attended a lunchtime strategy meeting in the basement of St. Paul's. Following Sullivan's arrest, a group calling itself the Coalition for Social Justice of Greater Harrisburg had begun to meet regularly, to discuss possible actions in Sullivan's case and, according to its Facebook page,

DAVID PATTON,  
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"IT WAS REALLY  
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THAT SOMEONE  
WOULD GET HURT."





to more broadly “affect social change.” Harris and Sullivan were there, along with Reggie Guy, of the MLK Leadership Development Institute, a local non-profit. A circle of chairs had been set out at the foot of a small soundstage, and a group of 20 or so gradually filled them, including Sullivan’s daughter and mother and a couple of his parishioners.

Sullivan wore a maroon suit and glasses. He led an opening prayer, closing his eyes and rocking back and forth gently. Afterwards, while people filled their plates with food, I took a seat beside Sullivan and asked him about the history of the V.O.C.C. He didn’t have an exact date for when the church moved to 12th Street, saying it “started piecemeal,” but that it was “early on.” I asked about the circumstances that led to his founding a church, and he said he would have to speak with his legal counsel before answering any more questions. (Sullivan and his lawyers declined subsequent interview requests.)

Harris, wearing a sweater and blue jeans, approached the podium. He began by discussing a City Council hearing scheduled for that evening, during which the heads of fire, police and codes were supposed to discuss “standard procedure” for handling building violations. Questions about procedure had become a fixation for Sullivan’s supporters—the claim that he received unfair treatment depended on how such cases were normally handled. In particular, Harris took issue with what he described as Sullivan being brought to the scene and “posed” for the news cameras. As a local deacon had put it, speaking to a television crew during the March 16 summit, Sullivan had been made to “do the ‘perp walk,’ handcuffed and shackled.”

“We’ve never had an arrest handled like this,” Harris said. He insinuated that the mayor had some control over when the collapse occurred, noting that the timing of the arrest looked “preconceived.” “If you want someone to spend the night and the weekend, when do you arrest them? Friday night,” he said. (In fact, Sullivan was released early Saturday morning.)

Harris then linked Sullivan’s treatment to larger trends of injustice. He and other ministers had recently returned from a trip with local rabbis and high school students to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. He had been particularly moved, he said, by an exhibit called “Some Were Neighbors,” which emphasized the point that Nazi collaborators “were those that were complicit with their silence.” He then returned to Sullivan and the response from certain local ministers. “I’ve heard nothing from the downtown clergy. I’ve heard nothing from the Jewish community. I’ve heard nothing from the Roman Catholic community. I’ve heard nothing from the Lutheran community,” he said. “The silence has been deafening.”

Sullivan spoke next. His attorney was there, and there was a limit to what he could say, but he wanted

to clear a few things up. He began by addressing something “lingering out there” about his past. In the month since his arrest, some outlets had reported on a guilty plea Sullivan had entered in 1998 for a harassment charge—a low-grade misdemeanor. “The inference was that it involved a woman,” Sullivan said. “And it did not involve a woman. I was protecting my child, and it was 16 years ago. And every father worth a grain of salt protects his child.” He suggested that people had dredged up his court record “as a way to fracture this community.”

Sullivan also wanted to discuss the breadth of his work outside the church. For many years, he said, his attention to his own affairs “went lacking” because he was “always being called on for everything else.” On top of being president of the IMC, pastoring his church and overseeing his global network, he had served as a vice president of the NAACP, as religious affairs chair for the state and on the governor’s advisory commission for African American affairs. “In all these different capacities and in other ways, I was always giving, giving, giving,” he said. When

his wife passed away, he lost the “one person” who was looking out for him. “There was nobody right there on the scene to take care of my things,” he said. But, he added, “I was not just sitting around. I was fighting for everybody else, and a lot of my things did not get addressed.”

The discussion turned to local issues of social justice. The group talked about the need to accurately inform their community, especially young people. Sullivan noted—and “we keep saying it,” he said—that there was “no black newspaper, no black

radio station, nothing of that.” It was hoped that the Coalition’s Facebook page could help fulfill that role. (The next day, the page posted a photo of the city’s new firefighter hires, along with a short article that included the line, “Don’t strain your eyes, there are no known African Americans or Hispanics in this group of fire recruits.”) Reggie Guy, of the MLK Leadership Development Institute, spoke at length, connecting Sullivan’s experience to what he perceived as a larger assault on minority power in the city. “We are gentrifying this community, and we are chasing people out,” he said.

Afterwards, I spoke with a young couple introducing themselves as the Davises, who sat against one wall with a baby in a car seat at their feet. The mother, Clarissa, had joined the V.O.C.C. in its beginnings, in the summer of 1999. Through Sullivan’s church, she said, she had come to know her purpose. She felt his arrest was a “very big injustice”: if there were anything he could have done to avoid the collapse, he would have done it. “He’s an impeccable man,” she said.

**“THIS THING WAS HORRIBLE,” ONE CONTRACTOR SAID OF THE CHURCH BUILDING. “THE TREES WERE WHAT WAS HOLDING IT TOGETHER.”**

After the meeting at St. Paul’s, I visited the demolition site. The downslope side of the building was completely intact, while the other half was torn wide open. Beyond a pile of bricks, lumber and split-face concrete blocks, you could see into the room where services must have been held. A drum set and a pair of pulpits remained onstage, beneath a large painting of a lake under a clear blue sky.

The demolition bid was awarded to Empire Services, a firm with an office in Reading, for \$132,000. In the civil complaint, Sullivan says he obtained a qualified bid for \$83,000, but the city claimed publicly that the job required specialized equipment, citing the church’s proximity to power lines and neighbors. At the site, an employee for Empire named Tony pointed out the massive excavator, which he said had a reach of 130 feet. “This thing was horrible,” he said of the building. “The trees were what was holding it together.”

A couple of guys drifted over. One of them, wearing a Standard Parking jacket and introducing himself as John, said he had lived in the neighborhood since 1973. Papenfuss had told me that, while he was going door-to-door during his campaign, residents in the area had “begged” him to address the church property. John now told me he was circulating a petition to get the city to knock down more structures. “I’d rather have empty lots than condemned houses,” he said. “How often do you drive through the suburbs and see a burned-out house?”

John lived next door to a rotting corner store that had been abandoned for around 10 years. Last year, some of the building’s windows had fallen out of their frames into his yard. “I got grandkids, man,” he said.

That evening, April 1, City Council held its hearing to discuss the city’s procedures for violators of building codes. For Sullivan’s supporters, the hearing was bound to be a disappointment before it started. They had originally called for an inquiry into Sullivan’s arrest, hoping council would hear sworn testimony from the officials involved, as it is theoretically empowered to do under the city’s charter. But Neil Grover, the city solicitor, advised that the relevant statute was seldom used and possibly unconstitutional—it would involve council questioning people under oath about matters that might be pending litigation. Instead, as Grover and Council President Wanda Williams explained at the beginning of the hearing, council would simply ask about procedures in general, and not about Sullivan’s case.

The result was a stunted and often bizarre conversation, as council tried to phrase questions specific to Sullivan’s case in sufficiently general terms. Williams began by interviewing the police chief, Thomas Carter, who gave a brisk overview of the police department’s role in a building collapse: secure the area, assist fire and codes. Then Williams asked a question at the heart of the Sullivan case. “Chief, are we consistent in what we do for every violator throughout the city of Harrisburg?”

“I don’t know what you mean by that, ma’am,”



Carter said.

"Well, there was some concern that there was an inconsistency in how we, um, attempt to prosecute, or what would you say, arrest the individual," Williams went on. "Are we consistent when we have violators of building codes? Are we consistent in what we do and how we arrest them?"

"Yes."

"And this process has been used with other violators?"

"Yes."

"Other code violators?"

"Yes."

Williams turned to fellow council members. "Any other questions?"

Five minutes later, Councilwoman Sandra Reid tried to pursue a similar line. After Sullivan's arrest, it had come out that police had escorted him from his home to the site of the collapse. Afterwards, the city attributed this to Sullivan having a suspended driver's license, but his supporters suspected an intention to deliver him to news cameras. "Have you ever been called on in your 25 years to take someone to a collapsed building?" Reid asked Carter.

Grover interrupted. "I think you're now moving into where we are in the middle of the litigation in questions like that," he said. He offered a rephrasing of the question: do the police ever transport someone with a suspended license when a matter between the person and police arises? But Reid passed on Grover's suggestion and asked instead about "standard practice" when police show up at someone's home and have a warrant for his arrest.

"Every situation's different," Carter said finally. "But to answer your question, without taking into consideration this situation here, basically, yes, when we go to someone's house and we have warrants on them, we do charge them right there. But in this particular situation—"

"We can't talk—I don't want to talk about this particular situation," Reid said. "I just want to know, if somebody has a warrant, do you generally arrest them at that time."

"It depends on the situation," Carter said.

Eventually, after several false starts, the conversation opened up, and council members began to ask about the blight problem in general. David Patton, the codes administrator, explained that the city's condemned-buildings list included 364 properties, many of whose owners were "whereabouts unknown." State law allows potential buyers to start a corporation with virtually no identifying information, and when owners use those corporations to purchase properties, there's almost no way for codes to track them down. "They go to the corporations bureau, they list a vacant lot or building as an address, and they don't have to list any principals, agents or fiduciaries," Patton said. "So who're we gonna go after?"

At the end of the hearing, during public comment, Rev. Harris stood up and remarked that council's questions, which he thought were "exceedingly good," had revealed "inequities in how laws and rules are administered to people." He revisited his point from the lunch session, about Nazis and their silent

collaborators. "They used tactics of humiliation and shame," he said. "Sound familiar?"

Why has the notion that the mayor staged Sullivan's arrest to shame him proven so hard to dislodge? The city, for its part, maintains there was nothing personal about Sullivan's treatment. Papenfuse claims not to have even spoken with police the night of the collapse; the fire chief, Brian Enterline, told me that when codes gave him Sullivan's name, he "didn't even realize who it was."

Yet the perception of a deliberate shaming has persisted. Perhaps, in part, it's because Sullivan's treatment had the effect a staged arrest would have aimed for. In an interview a week after the council hearing, Papenfuse suggested that the sequence of cause and effect surrounding the collapse couldn't have been clearer. Days before it, he publicly pledged misdemeanor charges for negligent landlords. When the collapse happened, the police charged Sullivan accordingly. Afterwards, the city released its list of top violators, many of whom had since "quietly come forward to discharge their warrants." If Sullivan's treatment looked like "unprecedented" tough enforcement, perhaps that's because it was. The new administration had sent the message that it was serious about conquering blight.

In the weeks since the council hearing, Harris, the IMC and the MLK Leadership Institute have continued to keep the issue alive. On April 4, MLK hosted its annual "foot soldiers" dinner to honor regional civil rights leaders. Tickets cost \$45 a head; proceeds, Guy told me, would be split evenly between Sullivan and the families displaced by the collapse of his church. (As of this writing, the IMC had made one donation, a down payment of around \$2,000 towards a \$4,200 electrical repair it had commissioned from an acquaintance of Guy's.) Before dinner, Sullivan offered an invocation, and Harris gave a short speech, during which he said Harrisburg was "lucky and blessed" to face financial difficulties, problems in education, "soaring rates of STDs" and blight, "because only God can turn it around."

On April 8, Harris joined two local rabbis at the Beth El Temple Uptown for a "Freedom Seder," a shared Passover meal with roots in the Civil Rights era, during which blacks and Jews are urged to contemplate the meaning of freedom and slavery. (Sullivan was billed to co-lead the event, but wound up taking time off to recuperate following the stress of the collapse, Guy said.) Members of the IMC Revival Choir sang spirituals throughout the meal, including several verses of "We Shall Overcome": "Black and white together, black and white together someday."

At the end of the meal, I spoke to Guy in the hallway. The council hearing, he said, indicated that Sullivan's treatment was "a sore that requires healing." And, he added, it wasn't just Sullivan. He urged me to consider two other recent issues: the school district, where Papenfuse had publicly called for the removal of the state-appointed recovery officer, and the Paxton fire station, which he had announced would close as a result of the firefighters'

new labor agreement. All of these events, Guy said, pointed to the mayor's "impulsiveness and inability to sense the mood of his constituency." "The mayor doesn't get it," he said.

I wondered if, conversely, Guy didn't quite get Papenfuse. Since the moment he first spoke about Sullivan's arrest, the mayor has been resolute that the city did the right thing, regardless of voters' moods. "These charges are just the beginning," Papenfuse said, at his initial press conference after the collapse. Since taking office, he has revamped the city's in-house demolition team, assembled a task force on blight and embarked on a citywide housing strategy. He also has plans to resurrect a housing court, to remedy what he described as "inconsistent" enforcement by the district courts.

Patton, the codes administrator, says he feels his department is "gaining strength." The city is slated to hire two additional codes officers this year; in the long-term, Patton also hopes it will assign a police investigator, who can access the state's law-enforcement database, to building violations. (As a codes officer, Patton is barred from using the database, so he often resorts to Facebook and Google to track down delinquent owners.) Meanwhile, the merger of codes and police, which he credited to Papenfuse, had brought previously disparate efforts "under the same umbrella." He said the move was emblematic of the mayor's "government logic" approach—ensuring that people with a common purpose were coordinating their efforts. He was "extremely optimistic" about the mayor's initiatives, he said. "You can see the electrification of everything here." **B**







*Perry County Literacy  
Council helps set people  
on new paths.*

BY DON HELIN

# Getting Unstuck



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**ASHLEY IS A SINGLE MOTHER ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE WITH TWO SMALL CHILDREN, BUT HIGHLY MOTIVATED TO GET OFF OF ASSISTANCE AND INTO A JOB AND CAREER.**

**“I DON’T WANT MY KIDS TO SEE ALL THIS,” SHE SAID, REFERRING TO WHAT GOES ON IN HER ECONOMICALLY STRUGGLING NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**“I WANT THEM TO HAVE A BETTER LIFE.”**

---

So, she made a decision. She recently turned to the Perry County Literacy Council, which stepped in to help her start anew.

“Our formal mission statement is to provide educational programs for Perry County residents and families,” said Executive Director Kathleen Bentley. “But the truth of the matter is that my job is to help motivated men and women get unstuck.”

Ashley came to the office about seven months ago. Not being a high school graduate, she first needed to obtain a GED. That’s where the challenge began. To take the GED, she had to obtain a photo ID. But she had no way to get to a place to get that photo ID.

*Stuck.*

The next problem: to get a photo ID, she needed a birth certificate and a Social Security card. And, to set up transportation and make appointments, she needed a cell phone.

*Stuck again.*

Transportation is a huge problem in a rural county like Perry. Public assistance housing is outside of town, so, with almost no public transportation, it’s difficult to get around.

The council staff helped Ashley get her ID and the other material she needed to begin work on her GED. But Ashley needed months of tutoring (six hours a week) to pass the test. Again, with no transportation, she couldn’t get to the office for classes.

The council staff arranged transportation through the Volunteer Drivers Project, a group of local drivers. So, Ashley was able to travel to the classroom to work with tutors and study for her GED.

But, as a single mother of two, Ashley needed childcare. The council staff was able to work with the Public Assistance Office, and Ashley was approved for subsidized childcare.

*Unstuck.*

“The point I’m making,” Bentley said, “is that there are huge barriers for people trying to get off of public assistance. For many, these barriers are too high, and they give up. I look on it as my job to bust through those barriers and give highly motivated people like Ashley a chance. With our help, many are able to make it off of public assistance and on to a brighter future.”

Ashley worked hard and completed her GED. She wanted that job. She wanted her independence. The next step for Ashley was to begin work with the council’s partners.

#### WEB OF SERVICES

Once Ashley received her GED, she needed training for employment. She enrolled with the Title I Workforce Investment Act career manager and was referred to classes that prepared her to take the WorkKeys tests.

Developed by the American College of Testing (ACT), WorkKeys measures the skills that are crucial for job success. Postsecondary schools and businesses then could evaluate Ashley’s potential for success and know what they were getting when they hired her.

“I learned in my years working in nonprofits that you need a team in order to obtain funding to help people,” Bentley said. “Here in our building, we have Tech Bridge, which helps at-risk youth ages 16 to 21 with pre-employment training, job search and transition to postsecondary training and employment.”

The council also offers Experience Works, which provides placement for low-income residents, ages 55 and over, to train for employment in not-for-profit agencies.

“We can help place almost anyone once they have attained the workforce certification,” Bentley said.

Moreover, this web of agencies resides under one roof, working together to help ensure an applicant can quickly and easily move from one to the other, minimizing the need for transportation.

“When we moved in to our current building, I wanted a joint operation with all of the organizations—an opportunity for one-stop shopping,” Bentley said.

#### NOT OVER TIL IT’S OVER

Once Ashley completed her workforce certification testing, she interviewed and searched out a career opportunity as a pharmacy tech.

She will take the courses online, but needed transportation to get to a job, so she needed a car. Before she could get a car, she needed a driver’s license. Before she could get a driver’s license, she needed driver’s training.

*Stuck once more.*

The council was able to help her with all of that. She soon will enter training and an internship program with a large drug company. And, with a

car, she can work while attending training.

“My concern is that Perry County is replete with people like Ashley,” Bentley said. “They don’t want to be on public assistance or go back to jail or get hooked on drugs again, but the barriers for these people are enormous.”

Each year, the council helps 100-plus dedicated people make the journey out of poverty and onto the employment rolls, said Bentley, “but it requires teamwork among a number of agencies and an agency like ours to drive the program.”

“We believe that every person who walks through our door must be treated as a person and not just a number,” said Dawn Beaver, the council’s tutor coordinator. “If a client is willing to do his part, we will do everything possible to help that person be successful.” **B**

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*The Perry County Literacy Council is at 133 S. 5th St., Newport. Call 717-567-7323 or visit [www.perryliteracy.com](http://www.perryliteracy.com).*

## RACE FOR READING

Over its 30 years, the Perry County Literacy Council has helped hundreds of residents increase their literacy levels or obtain GED credentials to improve their standard of living. While government funding, private foundations and cost-sharing strategies support the bulk of the programs, the council must raise about 35 percent of its own budget every year.

The Race for Reading, the council’s annual fundraiser, greatly helps that effort. It’s held on Kentucky Derby Day, this year at the Little Buffalo State Park Reception Hall on Saturday, May 3. Doors open at 5 p.m., and guests are treated to a buffet dinner and a silent and live auction for \$35.

“It’s a beautiful thing to see the community rally in support of the Literacy Council,” said Leslie Heimbauch, the council’s office manager. “They know how important it is that we are able to continue these innovative programs to help Perry County residents get off assistance and earn a living wage.”





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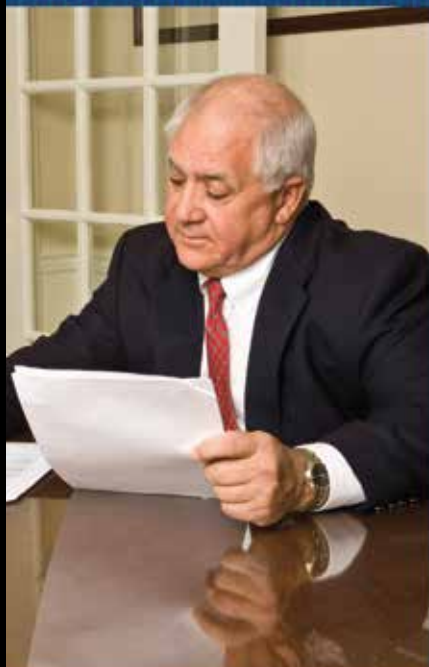
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# A SOAP STORY

*Looking good, smelling great in Shipoke.*

BY ANDREW DYRLI HERMELING

Writing for TheBurg, I've had some interesting experiences. I've gotten friendly with a few hungry goats; enjoyed some great beer; hung out with some bands passing through Harrisburg on tour.

This time around, I was ushered in, plopped into a chair, lathered up and given a haircut and a shave.

Mind you, not just any haircut, but one that would impress a 19th-century dandy, one reminiscent of a bygone era, a throwback to a golden age of men's styling. Currently operating out of the historic Pancake Mansion in Harrisburg's Shipoke neighborhood, Chops Barbershop's rustic wooden floors, rich colors and walls displaying traditional grooming products immediately reminded me of the "Portlandia" sketch called "Dream of the 1890s."

Chops himself looks the part, and his technique and approach to his craft recalled a time when a barbershop offered a brief respite of pampering to men of almost all economic classes.

The thing is: I wasn't really even there to visit with Chops (or the shop's two enthusiastic Boston terriers, Tank and Lucy). I primarily was there to see Ashley Merris, Chops' partner in business and life and the owner of the American Gentleman Soap Co.

It was a soap story I was after.

## SUDSY START

You really can't separate the story of the Soap Co. from that of Chops, since they've long been connected.

"We started in a 'homebrew' group called 'Addicted to Pomade,' where we developed our signature hair product," said Ashley. "We also needed a good shave soap for the shop. Since both turned out well, we decided to sell our pomades and soaps, along with beard butter and mustache wax, about two years ago. We are a little different from most 'homebrewers' because we have the barbershop as well, so we have a great place to test and sell our products."

However, the American Gentleman Soap Co. has moved well beyond its modest, hobbyist roots. Despite being listed exclusively on Etsy.com (an online store and network of sellers of crafts, handmade products and art), wholesalers began contacting Ashley. The wholesale market now connects the company to an international customer base.

"Beyond most of the country, we have our products being sold in Indonesia, and we're entering into a partnership with beard enthusiasts in Poland," she said.

The concept of Polish beard enthusiasts struck me as odd enough, but it was the success in Indonesia that I felt needed further comment.

She responded with a shrug, adding, "Our pomade stands up well in the heat."

Even as Ashley's company blossoms, it is impressive that production still remains, quite literally, "in-house." "We make everything in the kitchen," she said. "Production takes place during the week, whenever I

have time. I use the stovetop, a double boiler and our pomade kettle. Everything is very simple."

This is part of the appeal. Everything can be produced at home because every product boasts a short ingredient list.

"Our products are very simple. We put a lot of good stuff in it. Organic whenever possible. And we have vegan pomades that don't contain beeswax."

Ashley's wholesalers often request large orders, leaving her and Chops struggling to keep up.

"We are definitely going to need to hire someone in the near future to help us fill all the orders that are coming in," she said.

## TRADITIONS LIVE

As Ashley talked, with Chops occasionally chiming in, I tried to focus on the experience.

Conducting an interview while getting a haircut is certainly a challenge. Before long, we transitioned to a shave, meaning it was time for me to be quiet and let the man with the straight razor work his magic.

As Chops lathered my face with their signature shave soap, I was struck by the scent. In fact, the longer I sat in the chair, the more I realized that this might be the greatest appeal of the American Gentleman Soap Co.

I was instantly transported to fond memories of my childhood, when I would go to the neighborhood barber for a summer buzz cut. I remember having my prepubescent neck and sideburns superfluously shaved then patted with talcum powder. As I sat in Chops' barber chair, awash in nostalgia, I wondered why we men abandoned these classic smells in exchange for the garish, hyper-masculine odors of Axe and Old Spice.

Chops spun me around to face the mirror. My face was smooth and my hair markedly shorter. I was very pleased as I stood up and brushed some residual cut hairs off of my shirt. Customers had begun to come in, and I feared that I had occupied the chair a little longer than expected, forcing Chops to run behind schedule for the rest of the day.

But, as I thanked my gracious hosts and made my way back to my car, pomade and shave soap samples in hand, I was grateful for the opportunity to travel back to my childhood when men's grooming had a class and subtlety that I fear has been lost in this age.

And I was equally grateful that, between the American Gentleman Soap Co. and Chops Barbershop, these traditions are being maintained right here in Harrisburg. **B**

*Chops Barbershop and the American Gentleman Soap Co. are located at 331 S. Front St., Harrisburg. Call 717-379-5993 or visit [www.chopsbarbershop.com](http://www.chopsbarbershop.com). You can find the Soap Co.'s products at numerous sites online, including [www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com).*

*Chops and Ashley also are raising money to move into a permanent home in Harrisburg. You can locate their fundraiser and contribute at [www.gofundme.com/chopsbarbershop](http://www.gofundme.com/chopsbarbershop).*





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# SWEET TASTE OF SUCCESS

*Macris Chocolates takes its edible treats to the West Shore.*

BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER



Elena Macris

In Malcolm Gladwell's bestseller, "Outliers: The Story of Success," the author posits a theory that excellence is attained by spending at least 10,000 hours dedicated to a particular effort. For some, that number might seem daunting, but not for Elena Macris, who has been working around chocolate since she was a small child.

"I began when I was around 10 years old," she said. "For a few hours after school, when we were on break, we would work in our retail store located about 45 minutes north of Pittsburgh."

Elena's mother, who ran the store, would pay her and her brother an allowance to lend a hand. "We grew up in a good environment where you learned the meaning of hard work, and, if you wanted to accomplish something, you had to put effort into it," she said.

That work ethic is paying off. Opened just a few months ago in the West Shore Plaza in Lemoyne, Macris Chocolates already is growing in popularity as word spreads about the array of edible delights available at her shop.

## IN THE BEGINNING

Elena, who is a third-generation chocolatier, tells the story of how it all began.

"My grandfather and his brothers emigrated here from Greece," she said. "He started out as a furrier in New York before joining his brothers in purchasing a small candy store in western Pennsylvania."

That was back in 1919.

"They learned the craft from Greek friends in the community," she continued. "Over the years, they attended various chocolate and candy schools, as well."

Although their store was located in western Pennsylvania, they called their line "Philadelphia Candies" to connote that they were "Chocolates Made with Brotherly Love." To this day, Elena marvels at how the Greek community knew so much about chocolate making.

"It's kind of a mystery, since there aren't a lot of chocolate places in Greece," she said with a chuckle.

Her grandfather passed the business down to her father, and, today, the family operates two retail locations—one in Hermitage and another in Canfield, Ohio.

## EASTWARD, HO

After Elena graduated college, she worked at the family business for a few years before deciding the time was right to branch out on her own and open a "sister location," as she prefers to call it.

"I studied this area for about a year and talked to different business owners," she said. "I also spoke to tenants and friends who lived here. After traveling here, I realized there was a need and found a

really good real estate agent."

She decided on a location near Karns in Lemoyne, and, by October of 2013, everything was up and running at the 2,000-square-foot store.

Inside, customers can choose from among 100 different varieties of chocolates designed to appeal to even the pickiest sweet tooth. No order is too small, so even those on a diet can drop in and select just a few. "It's all sold by weight," she said.

And, because she receives shipments of items like caramels, nougats and nuts roasted at her home factory four times a week, you can be sure that everything is fresh.

"We try to keep everything standard to maintain consistency. For instance, we get huge apricots from a vendor in California. We won't change that. When my father finds a supplier he likes, he sticks with them. If you change one little ingredient, you can taste the difference."

For those interested in a hostess gift, it's hard to go wrong, and Elena will be happy to wrap your purchase in an elegant package.

To keep abreast of what's new in the chocolate world, she often travels to food shows. "Spices are becoming more popular now," she said.

Current customer favorites at the Lemoyne store include sea salt caramels and peanut butter truffles. Her "signature piece," a buttercream coated in nuts and chocolate called the "Croquette," is also selling well. Personalized eggs and bunnies were big hits during the recent Easter season, which followed a busy Valentine's Day when chocolate-coated, long-stemmed, California strawberries

seemed to fly off the shelves.

Despite the harsh winter, business has been good, according to Elena, who started with two employees and now has six.

Customer Jenny Myers said, "I like how classy her place is and the fact that everything is made from scratch. It has such an elegant, boutique feel. She puts her heart into it, and it's gorgeous."

The Mechanicsburg resident favors the sea salt caramels, but her daughters Katelyn and Emily, ages 16 and 13, love the chocolate-covered potato chips. Her 11-year-old son Parker enjoys the chocolate-covered pretzels.

Myers, who owns a beauty salon in Mechanicsburg, said she likes purchasing gifts with a personal touch. "She has hundreds of molds and made chocolate hair dryers and scissors for my staff. She'll work with you to personalize your gifts," she said.

Camp Hill resident Dina Clarke works at Macris and said she loves it.

"I retired from radio and never missed getting up at 3 a.m.," she said. "When my daughter went to college, I decided to do something different. It's so elegant, and I love to see people leave smiling. It's just a fun place to work." **B**

**Macris Chocolates is open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.macrischocolates.com](http://www.macrischocolates.com) or call 717-412-7129.**

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# 5 RESTAURANTS, 1 QUESTION

*The restaurant business is notoriously fickle, with an average eatery lasting only a couple of years before closing up. So, then what makes for success in this difficult industry?*

*We asked five of Harrisburg's long-time, most respected restaurateurs for their opinions. Looking back, what has been the most important factor in your success?*

*Photos by Dani Fresh, [www.danifresh.com](http://www.danifresh.com)*



## ANGELO KARAGIANNIS / ZEMIE'S SPORTS TAVERN

The most important factor in the success of Zemie's is by far my STAFF! Twenty years ago when I purchased Zemie's, I worked around the clock expressing my concerns and objectives to front- and back-of-the-house employees. These key employees are still with me.

Another factor is that Zemie's is a small place with a reasonable rent which allows me the ability to manage the ups and downs of this fickle business. However, as new places come and go, my staff remains.

Regulars and the support of restaurant employees in town have given us the feeling of a "Cheers." And we are proud to have that feeling!



## CHAR MAGARO / CHAR'S AT TRACY MANSION

Char's Tracy Mansion's success is due to:

- We offer an overall dining experience that is unique for this area.
- We strive to exceed people's expectations.
- We deliver a "product" (atmosphere, service, menu) that makes our guests feel special.



A man with glasses, wearing a blue blazer over a light pink shirt, stands behind a bar. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a restaurant interior with a textured wall and a chandelier.

## NICHOLAS LAUS / CAFÉ FRESCO AND HOME 231


When someone leaves my restaurant, I want them to say “WOW.”

There are many dynamics that go into attaining and maintaining that “wow” factor. The restaurant’s atmosphere serves as the first impression for the customer—and it should be a unique concept with strategically planned lighting, music and décor. Though the fundamental theme may remain unchanged over time, I’m always visiting other establishments in search of innovative, new menu, service and design ideas to incorporate into my own businesses.

Next, customers will meet the staff, whose importance I never underestimate. Wait staff in food service are your salespeople, responsible for marketing and selling your menu. Image is crucial, along with a welcoming personality that allows them to socialize with customers and offer menu suggestions. Getting someone to try something new that they love is a great way to encourage repeat business.

I want customers to be impressed by the food presentation and then wowed by the taste. The menu should be balanced, fun and exciting—continuously evolving and offering new dishes for patrons to explore.

Lastly, I strive for customers to be wowed by my restaurant’s atmosphere, service and menu every visit. Consistency is crucial in this business.

A woman with short, grey hair, wearing a black and white polka-dot jacket over a pink top, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing in a restaurant with a bar and shelves of bottles in the background.

## STACI BASORE / MANGIA QUI, SUBA AND RUBICON

Success in the restaurant industry can be elusive. Some operators simply want to make a living while others have loftier goals. Regardless of your ambitions, I feel for us that employee happiness is key, coupled with guest satisfaction and, of course, offering a superior product.

A man and a woman are standing behind a bar. The man, wearing glasses and a brown shirt, is holding a beer tap handle. The woman, with blonde hair and wearing a black jacket, is smiling. The bar is well-stocked with various bottles and glasses.

## TOM & AMY SCOTT / MCGRATH’S PUB

Unlike for most occupations or professions, the “School of Hard Knocks” is the best education for the food service industry. You learn as you go and hope you are blessed with good role models.

You have to be cut out for this life. Only crazy, uneducated, socially awkward people are stupid enough to do this for a living. I’m speaking for myself, of course.

All kidding aside, it’s all about relationships with our guests, striving everyday to keep our food the best quality, the restaurant spic-n-span, be committed to running a solid business, being patient, being realistic and remembering to stick with what works. And above all, know your limitations. If you can’t execute all of the time, every day, then don’t do it.

Try not to get caught up in what the “other guy” is doing, just stick to what you do best. Common sense tells me that things are “good” when our neighbors are doing good business. Common sense tells me that when “Harrisburg” is doing well, we all have an opportunity to do well.





# Business still hopping at RED RABBIT

*So many years, so many Bunny Burgers.* | BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER

**W**hen did you take a bite of your first Bunny Burger?

Since 1964, millions of midstaters have regarded their first trip to the Red Rabbit Drive-In as almost a rite of passage, a tradition that continues as the old-school eatery celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

The 1950s retro vibe is reminiscent of the popular “Happy Days” television show, with orders delivered curbside. Pull up, park and give your order; it’s that convenient. A waiter or waitress will return with a tray, and you’ll be on your way to enjoying a meal with the family within the cozy confines of your vehicle. Nearby picnic tables are nestled beneath a roof for those who prefer more elbow room and the opportunity to dine al fresco.

On the menu is an array of standard, uncomplicated family fare from hamburgers to cheeseburgers, fish sandwiches, ham and pork barbecue and, of course, fries. Dinners include chicken, shrimp and fish, to name a few, and the homemade coleslaw is always a hit. Hungry guests can warm up with a bowl of chili during the colder months, and little ones especially enjoy the chicken fingers, grilled cheese, hot dogs, ice cream, shakes and slush puppies.

Because the Red Rabbit closes for 10 weeks each year after Thanksgiving, many customers anxiously await its re-opening in February as a harbinger of spring, when families can shake off those winter doldrums and hit the open road for a bite of something tasty.

First-timers take note and plan accordingly: The Red Rabbit only serves customers from Friday through Sunday.

## *A Tasty Idea*

Manager Sam Berger’s grandparents, Sam and Maggie Snyder, started the little roadside restaurant on a plot of land about 15 miles upriver from Harrisburg, where Distlefink’s Ice Cream and Sandwich Shop was previously located.

“Grandpop had always been involved in the restaurant business, and he was a baker on a ship during WWII,” said Berger. “He later worked with his brothers in a restaurant called the Barbecue Cottage before deciding to go off on his own. He and my grandmother purchased a house off the Amity Hall exit and would drive back and forth to Harrisburg for work. When Distlefink’s closed, they sat in the car before buying the property to

determine the amount of traffic they would have.”

It turned out the decision to buy the property was a wise one, and the business with the catchy phrase and cute logo took off.

“The bunny logo is my mother’s artwork; she designed it while in high school,” said Berger. “My grandparents then created the catchphrase, ‘Make Red Rabbit a Habit.’”

Berger’s parents, Sam and Cindy, took over the business in 1988, and, today, they employ 30 staffers. Sam helps manage the business that has remained fairly steady throughout the years.

“We do our best to stay with the original concept of quality and good service,” he said. “They are the two mainstays that my parents and grandparents have continued.”

One of the few things that has changed is online traffic. Thanks to social media, the Red Rabbit is now mentioned on Yelp, Foursquare and TripAdvisor, and the Facebook page is gaining in popularity.

As for traditional traffic, Berger said that’s been fairly constant and is almost evenly split between locals and those just passing through.

“We do get a lot of business from Penn State fans during football season,” said Berger.





## Fan Stories

Lancaster resident Christina Schoffstall is one of those Penn State fans who makes it a point to stop when passing through.

“My husband and his family went to the Red Rabbit as a family tradition on the way to their cabin every few weeks, and one of the highlights was eating dinner in the car,” she said. “He had such a fond memory of those times that he started taking me. We now take our children there after the Penn State games. As parents, it’s enjoyable for us to hear them say, ‘there is the *wed wabbit*.’”

Cindy Moyer of Northumberland has been a fan for years.

“When my brother and I were kids, we made many trips to Linglestown to visit my aunt, uncle and their kids,” she said. “Every time we went to visit, we’d stop for Bunny Burgers. I’ve been eating Bunny Burgers my entire life.”

For those unfamiliar with Bunny Burgers, take heart—they have nothing to do with the cute furry animals that hop. The popular menu item consists of a ground beef burger, hickory smoked bacon, melted cheese, shredded lettuce, tomato slices, pickles, onions and a special sauce on a seeded roll.

Moyer lost her parents in the ‘90s, so the pilgrimage fills her with nostalgia.

“Each time my husband and I stop for Bunny Burgers, we order three—one for each of us, and one we get cut in half to eat in honor/memory of my parents and my husband’s mother who also loved stopping for Bunny Burgers,” she said. “We will make the trek for Bunny Burgers until we are unable to do so.”

Berger said hearing such stories warms the hearts of the family that works so hard at what they do.

“We’re thrilled when we hear stories of customers who come back year after year and generation after generation, and we are thankful to work with the employees that we do—some of them third generation,” he said. “Of course, we very much appreciate all of our customers and the fans of the Red Rabbit. We expect to be around for a long time, who knows, maybe another 50 years.” **B**

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**D**o you think Harrisburg will support a . . . wine bar, upscale restaurant, French bistro, nice pasta joint, gourmet café? I'm asked this question each time something new opens, something better or different than this city has seen before.

The answer usually is "yes," as food establishments here, as long as they're good and well run, seem to gain a reputation and a following.

So, I expect to be asked this same question when word hits about Table at Bricco, the newest concept from the enterprising folks at one of Harrisburg's finest Italian restaurants.

This month, Executive Chef Jason Viscount opens the door to the small storefront that once housed another Bricco creation, the greatly missed Olewine's Meat & Cheese House.

A huge, 13-by-3-foot mahogany table (the "Table") now dominates the tight space, around which 14 lucky people will share a dining experience that may be unmatched in the Harrisburg area.

"I wanted to offer an experience that's more upscale than Bricco," said Viscount. "I wanted to do something to really showcase the talent that we have here."

Originally, he wanted diners to watch him cook right in front of them. However, the space proved too small for that, so he tweaked the concept.

The seven-course dinner now will be prepared in Bricco's second kitchen, with Viscount himself doing much of the cooking. The night's prix fixe menu will be set less than a week before, based upon his knowledge of that week's freshest, most desirable local meats, dairy and produce.

In other words, before making a reservation, you should be comfortable trusting the culinary judgment of one of Harrisburg's top chefs as opposed to, well, yourself.

"If I make my menu any earlier, I won't be able to get freshest available," he said.

So far, plenty of people have decided to put their evening into his hands, as, just by word of mouth, spots were filling up quickly for the dinners, which start May 3 and 4 and run every Friday and Saturday night thereafter.

Décor-wise, Viscount decided to stick with his original concept of making the dining room feel like an extension of the kitchen. So, the room will feature a menu board that you might find in a restaurant kitchen, a wall of wine crates and bottles and a funky, custom-made chandelier adorned with kitchen equipment, such as pots, pans and spoons.

Though, once the dinner starts, you may forget about your surroundings and lose yourself in the food, the company and the conversation, as you'll likely be sharing your meal with at least a few strangers, unless you're able to assemble a party to take all 14 seats.

The communal table is another part of the concept that Bricco is introducing. It has gained traction in larger cities but is relatively unknown in Harrisburg, particularly for high-end dining.

"There is nothing in central PA like this," Viscount said.

He expects the seven-course meal to average \$78 per person excluding taxes, tip and drinks. While pricey for Harrisburg, similar concepts in larger cities are actually more expensive, especially when accounting for the amount and quality of food, as well as the personal service, offered by Table at Bricco, he said.

Drawing on his years in Harrisburg, Viscount believes there is a market here for such a unique, upscale dining experience.

"Based upon my conversations with people, there seems to be a huge interest in it," he said. "It's meant to be a food adventure. It's all part of the experience and the fun." **B**

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*Find out more about Table at Bricco and make a reservation by calling 717-724-0222 or visiting [www.briccopa.com](http://www.briccopa.com).*

*Pictured top, right: Smoked tenderloin of beef, fava beans, spring onion, romanesco and black truffle sauce. Pictured bottom, left: Maine lobster salad, sweet peas and black garlic vinaigrette.*

# YOUR TABLE IS READY

*A unique dining experience (and maybe a few new friends) awaits at Table at Bricco.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA



Executive Chef Jason Viscount





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## COMFORT FACTOR

*It's a little funky, but it feels like home at Black N Bleu.*

BY CELESTE HELMAN

Since opening, Black N Bleu has become a sort of novelty to the Mechanicsburg community, a place for everyone, where black tie and blue collar can come together.

Wedged between the SPAR Firearms gun shop and Good Hope Animal Hospital, the restaurant on Carlisle Pike is continually striving for the perfection of comfort—in both food and ambience.

It's a formula that seems to be working, as the place serves crowds of customers all week and then is packed on weekends, when “anywhere from a one- to two-hour wait is expected,” according to owner Donny Brown, a 30-year veteran of the restaurant business and, until last year, the long-time owner of the Fire House Restaurant in Harrisburg.

Black N Bleu first opened on Black Friday three years ago and has been gaining popularity since.

“I’m always looking for great locations that could make terrific atmospheres and comfort levels for the locals,” said Brown.

Indeed, he has created a delightfully relaxed

restaurant, with vibrant colors, original artwork on the walls and low-key lighting (the blue globes over the bar both add a fun, arty vibe and enforce the “blue” color theme). Meanwhile, the unique open kitchen allows diners to watch their meals prepared before their eyes.

The menu, focused on casual American fare, actually contributed to the naming of Black N Bleu. By coincidence, there were four dishes with bleu cheese on them, and, therefore, the title of “Bleu” was created.

Today, Black N Bleu’s offerings range from pasta dishes, unique salads, steak and burgers to different types of seafood. The restaurant’s creative, yet classically inspired, choices include pasta dishes like “Lobster Mac-n-Cheese,” a steak and calamari salad and garlic chicken pizza.

“I like to come here after work, just kick back, and enjoy the atmosphere,” said Kevin Kellerman of Mechanicsburg. “The prices are fair, and the food is delicious.”

Prices range widely from about \$8 for some of the

sandwiches to \$32 for the “Black N Bleu Stack,” an edible skyscraper consisting of three layers: blue cheese mashed potatoes and asparagus as a base, filet mignon in the middle and a crab cake on top. Portion sizes are generous, and the service is genuine.

“What we do right is provide consistently good food at fair prices,” said Brown, who always likes to keep busy, helping his employees with the dinner rush and socializing with the customers whenever he can.

The familiar feeling of home seems to work.

“Everyone is welcome, casual, coming after work, whatever,” Brown said. “The comfort factor is a must.” **B**

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*Black N Bleu is located at 6108 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Monday. Call 717-458-8105 or visit [www.blacknbleupa.com](http://www.blacknbleupa.com).*



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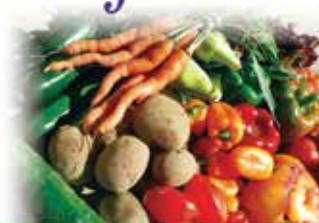
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# ANCIENT VINES, MODERN WINES

*These grapes offer you a taste  
treat and a history lesson.*

BY STEVE JULIANA

In the world of wine, it is not uncommon for the traditions of the past and the ideas of the future to collide. Time continues its path toward the unknown, and things that were once set in stone are pushed out of the way.

For instance, the modern invention of the screwtop has finally made inroads against the age-old cork, though that controversy looks to continue for a long while.

Sometimes, though, new technologies help us to discover secrets of the past. DNA testing in Italy, for example, has brought grapes that were once thought to be extinct a new popularity. This, coupled with modern winemaking, has made it possible for us to enjoy wines that were available 2,000 years ago.

Three of these grapes are from the Campania region, one of the places the Greeks settled in ancient times—a hop, skip and jump from the island of Capri and with a beautiful harbor at what is now Naples.

The three grapes are Greco di Tufo, Fiano and Falanghina. These are not names that one hears very often or even sees in print when discussing white wines (the French and the Germans seem to have that pretty well covered).

There are certain similarities in these varietals. They are light in body and color, delicately aromatic, nicely acidic and don't seem to age well. These are wines that match well with summer foods and with summer temperatures. Each one has its own characteristics and should be sought out by the wine drinker who is looking

for something unique, as well as a bit of a history lesson in ancient Italian culture. Just remember that our modern refrigeration is light years ahead, and you can believe these quaffs were imbibed at room temperature.

The name Greco di Tufo translates into “the Greek from Tufo.” This is a town named after the volcanic rock (tufa) that it sits on. It gives the wine a wonderful, mineral nuance that shows in the first sip.

What I like best about this Greek is the way it coats the inside of your mouth. The taste of the grapes seems to fill every nook and cranny. It has a nice long finish and also works well as a palate scrubber, making the next bite of food as delectable as the first. It's well worth a wine-lover's search.

The name Falanghina is thought to derive from the Latin word phalanga, meaning stake or pole. This is a reference to the early Greek method of training the vines onto poles or large stakes. This is a real workhorse grape used in sparkling, still and late-harvest dessert wines. It's wonderful in all its permutations.

Fiano is known as the “pesto” wine. It has a nutty, herbal flavor that does taste remarkably like the popular green sauce. Poured at a meal with pasta covered in this traditional way is a true gourmand's treat. It is a match made in heaven.

Three ancient grapes, three wonderfully modern wines. Can it get any better?

Keep sipping, Steve. **B**

## FINE WINE & GOOD SPIRITS



***A Casa Greco di Tufo 2012***  
code 43207 | Price: \$21.99

*Mark Palumbo, Wine Specialist at the FWGS Store in Hershey, says this wine is “light, fresh and dry, with a twist of citrus fruit and a wonderful finish. It pairs well with white and light red meat meals, as well as garden-fresh veggies.”*



***Rocca dei Sanniti Taburno  
Falanghina Sannio 2012***  
code 32990 | \$12.99 (quoted  
nationally at \$22)

*Kirt Heintzelman, Wine Specialist at the FWGS Store in Lemoyne, says this wine is “so vibrant, crisp and clean with citrus, apple and minerality. And this one happens to be from Sannio, which is a well-respected D.O.C. in Campania.”*



***Terredora di Paolo Fiano di  
Avellino Terre di Dora 2012***  
code 43573 | Price: \$21.99

*Italian luxury wine buyer Stephen Reso recommends this wine, arriving in stores mid-May. “Rich, round and dense. Pear notes, apricot, and even a hint of honey make this a wonderful wine to pair with oysters as an aperitif, or with grilled fish and shellfish.”*

Learn more about these selections at: [www.FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com](http://www.FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com)



# MOTHER'S DAY, ITALIAN STYLE

## *Brunch gets a Mediterranean makeover.*

BY ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER

**M**ay arrives this year as a welcome relief from a harsh, cold winter. And as I write this in early April, spring hasn't been much better. May is the month of soft breezes, lilacs, lilies of the valley, pink dogwood blooms, graduations, weddings and first Communions—and, of course, Mother's Day.

When our parents and aunts were living, it was our Mother's Day tradition to go to the Hotel Hershey for an early evening dinner. Those were wonderful times, if a little crazy, with so many Italians talking at once. One year, upon arrival, my husband told our server to bring him two martinis and talk to no one but him.

In more recent years, I've taken to entertaining my own small family on Mother's Day. My husband would suggest this is due to my natural propensity for suffering. But I love to cook, and Mother's Day is always a happy occasion for me.

Brunch, with its endless menu possibilities, is a great way to do Mother's Day. You can eat early and still have time for a lazy walk along the river. Try beginning with a light and fresh mimosa (fresh orange juice and champagne), a spicy bloody Mary or maybe a Bellini (fresh peach puree and Prosecco). And, rather than traditional scrambled eggs or eggs Benedict, try a "frittata," the Italian version of an omelet.

Like many Italian dishes, a frittata lends itself to variations and can be served hot, cold or at room temperature. Eggs can be mixed with your filling of choice, including fresh spring vegetables, Italian meats, all types of cheeses and even leftover, plain cooked pasta. Frittatas are begun in a skillet and finished in the oven, which, to me, is so much easier than trying to fold and flip an omelet.

But a few words of caution: a heavy, non-stick skillet that can go under the broiler must be used, and don't overcook. Scorched frittatas aren't very good.

The following frittata recipe comes from Giuliano Hazan, son of Marcello Hazan, known as the "queen of Italian cooking." He advises mixing the sautéed vegetables with the eggs in a bowl, while other chefs simply pour the eggs right over the vegetables in the skillet. Either way works. His version combines several traditional Italian flavors: prosciutto, pecorino cheese, tomato and sweet basil. Remember, if you try this recipe, many different ingredients can be substituted. Aim for seasonal asparagus in spring or red peppers and eggplant in late summer.

### FRITTATA WITH ONIONS AND PROSCIUTTO

- Slice 2 large sweet onions into thin rings (look for Vidalias this time of year). Place them in a 10-inch, non-stick skillet and sauté along with 1½ tablespoons of sweet butter over medium heat until soft and lightly browned (about 10 minutes). Add a little salt and pepper.
- Slice 1/8 of a pound (2 ounces) of prosciutto into thin strips and, when the onions are brown, add them to the skillet. Sauté for another minute.
- Add a teaspoon of chopped fresh marjoram leaves to the skillet and cook 10 minutes more until the onions are completely wilted. Substitute fresh oregano if you prefer.
- While the onions cook, dice a large (about 10 ounces) ripe tomato into ¼ inch pieces and add to the skillet. Cook about 10 to 15 minutes more until all the tomato liquid evaporates.
- Beat 5 large eggs in a bowl and add 6 to 8 fresh, chopped basil leaves, ¼ cup grated pecorino Romano cheese and salt and pepper to taste. (Use a large bowl.)
- Empty the contents of the skillet into the bowl with the eggs and mix thoroughly.
- Pre-heat the broiler and melt an additional ½ tablespoon of butter in the same skillet.
- Pour the egg mixture back into the skillet when the butter is hot. Cook the eggs over medium heat for 6 to 8 minutes until the bottom is lightly browned. The top will still be runny.
- Then place the skillet under the broiler until the frittata is firm and golden brown. Be careful not to burn. (Use one of the oven racks that is not so close to the heat.)
- Remove the skillet from the oven and place it on a heat-proof surface. Lightly run a plastic knife or spatula along the edges to loosen the eggs and then slide the frittata onto a plate. It will look like an "egg pie."
- As noted above, the frittata can be served warm or at room temperature, allowing time to get your other dishes on the table.

The frittata is usually cut into wedges and served with lightly dressed arugula salad. You also can toss fresh fruit with a little limoncello to serve alongside. A simple slice of melon would also be lovely.

Harrisburg has several restaurants serving delightful brunches. Mangia Qui, Home 231, Raspberries at the Hilton and the Federal Taphouse are among them. But, if you want to try your hand serving brunch at home, I know you will enjoy making frittatas. They do take a little practice but are so versatile. Try them for dinner, too, along with some rosemary roast potatoes.

Happy Mother's Day to all readers of TheBurg! **E**







# OY CARUMBA!

*Two decades old, the Jewish Film Festival reflects on growing pains, Middle East conflict and, yes, the Simpsons.*

BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK

**M**ike Reiss has been speaking publicly for years—about “The Simpsons.”

That’s to be expected. He was the writer-producer and 20-year veteran of the wildly popular Fox Network animated TV show, winning four Emmy Awards for his work.

What Reiss didn’t expect was to present about “The Simpsons” and the Jews.

It started when a friend invited him a few years ago to speak at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. About a thousand people showed up to hear him—including some who weren’t fans of the show and others who hadn’t seen it.

“Jews like a good laugh,” is how Reiss explained the turnout.

Since then, he has spoken around the country about Jewish-themed episodes of “The Simpsons”—including the one in which Bart celebrates his bar mitzvah—and the Jewish producers, writers, actors and guest stars of the show.

“There’s enough Jewish material there for an hour or 75-minute multimedia presentation interspersed with clips,” Reiss said.

He is bringing “Jews and Toons” to the 2014 Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival, which opens May 15 at the Jewish Community Center and continues at Midtown Cinema and the State Museum of Pennsylvania through May 22.

Reiss’s presentation will take place in the State Museum auditorium on Sunday, May 18, at 7 p.m. (material appropriate for ages 14 and up), preceded by a reception at 6 p.m.

You don’t have to be Jewish to appreciate “Jews and Toons,” insists Reiss, who also created and wrote the webtoon “Queer Duck” and worked on such screenplays as “Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs,” “Horton Hears a Who!” and “The Simpsons Movie.”

## FOR EVERYONE

Given the broad appeal of The Simpsons, “Jews and Toons” certainly will be a highlight of the weeklong festival. But the filmfest is about so much more than cartoons, continuing a 20-year tradition of appealing to diverse audiences.

“Our mission is to share movies of Jewish and Israeli historical value and about Jewish and Israeli culture and experiences, and not just with

Jewish audiences,” said Julie Sherman, festival chairwoman.

“Diverse audiences” also refers to different age and interest groups.

It’s a cliché, Sherman added, but the 2014 festival has “something for everyone, something for the young and old. Among its nine films are documentaries, dramas, comedies.”

This year’s festival includes “Defiance Requiem,” the story of an uprising at the Terezin concentration camp, in which the performance of Verdi’s renowned choral work became both a lifeline for the inmates and an act of rebellion against their Nazi captors. American conductor Murry Sidlin, who returned to Terezin with some of the survivors to recreate this performance in 2006, will hold a Q&A after the screening. A reception will follow.

While sometimes members of the festival planning committee have lively discussions and disagree about the potential films, in the case of “Defiance Requiem,” “everyone agreed to include it,” Sherman noted.

Also part of the festival is “Bethlehem,” Israel’s entry into the Academy Awards in the Foreign Language Film category this past year. Shuttling back and forth between conflicting points of view, it tells the story of the complex relationship between an Israeli Secret Service officer and his teenage Palestinian informant.

“The film has no good guys and no bad guys,” said Sherman. “Everyone is both.”

A classic film with a Jewish theme is included, as well. This year, it’s “Goodbye, Columbus,” a romantic comedy-drama from 1969. The screening will be followed by a discussion of the film and the Philip Roth novel on which it was based.

On the lighter side is “Igor and the Cranes’ Journey,” about a young boy who tries to find his way in life—made in Russia and Israel, with subtitles.

“It’s lyrical, almost like a live fairy tale for all ages,” said Sherman.

“The Dandelions” is a comedy-drama, about the friendship between two lonely children (and starring Isabella Rossellini as a sympathetic psychiatrist), while “Kidon,” a comedy, is almost like an “Israeli Oceans 11,” she added.

In a much-darker tone is “Aftermath,” a fictional Holocaust-related thriller and drama inspired by the 1941 Jedwabne



pogrom, in which Jews were killed both by Nazis as well as some of their Polish neighbors.

## A FEW CHANGES

One difference from the festivals of recent years, Sherman pointed out, is the smaller number of films and screenings.

“Audience members complained there were too many—that they can’t come to the movies every day and were missing films,” she explained.

There is also a change in locations. Recently, except for the opening event, most films were at the State Museum. While the museum is still a venue, the Midtown Cinema—a location in the festival’s early years—is included again.

One reason is that Midtown has gone fully digital, a format that is eclipsing DVD and Blu-Ray among movie distributors.

When the festival began, it was unusual for a city the size of Harrisburg to have a Jewish Film Festival at all. Recently, when Sherman attended a Conference of Jewish Film Festivals, a total of 80 festivals were represented—a number of them from smaller cities.

That means that Harrisburg was at the forefront of a growing trend, as the festival’s organizers have long regarded film as a compelling way to connect with a larger audience.

“We want to enlighten and educate, foster dialogue and have a broader conversation,” said Sherman. **B**

## 2014 JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL

**THURSDAY, MAY 15**  
OPENING EVENT, JEWISH  
COMMUNITY CENTER  
(3301 N. Front St.)

7 p.m. – “Defiant Requiem,”  
with guest speaker Murry Sidlin.  
Reception follows.

**SATURDAY, MAY 17**  
MIDTOWN CINEMA  
(250 REILLY ST.)  
7:30 p.m. – “Kidon”

**SUNDAY, MAY 18**  
SPECIAL EVENTS, STATE  
MUSEUM OF PA  
(300 NORTH ST.)  
2:30 p.m. – “Goodbye Columbus.”  
Discussion follows  
6:30 p.m. – “Jews in Toons,” with  
guest speaker Mike Reiss

**MONDAY, MAY 19**  
MIDTOWN CINEMA  
3 p.m. – “Aftermath”  
5:30 p.m. – “Igor and the  
Cranes’ Journey”  
7:30 p.m. – “The Dandelions”

**TUESDAY, MAY 20**  
MIDTOWN CINEMA  
3 p.m. – “Goodbye, Columbus”  
5:30 p.m. – “The Gatekeepers”  
7:30 p.m. – “Bethlehem”

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 21**  
MIDTOWN CINEMA  
3 p.m. – “Defiant Requiem”  
5:30 p.m. – “The Dandelions”  
7:30 p.m. – “Aftermath”

**THURSDAY, MAY 22**  
MIDTOWN CINEMA  
3 p.m. – “Bethlehem”  
5:30 p.m. – “Kidon”  
7:30 p.m. – “Igor and the  
Cranes’ Journey”

*Tickets for the JCC opening event  
and for “Jews in Toons” are \$10.  
Matinees at the Midtown Cinema  
are \$7; all other sessions are \$8.*

*Tickets for all sessions can  
be purchased at the door (cash or  
check only at the State Museum);  
tickets for Midtown Cinema  
screenings can also be purchased  
online at [www.midtowncinema.com](http://www.midtowncinema.com).*

*For more information, visit the  
festival website: [www.hbgjff.com](http://www.hbgjff.com).*



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# Plein & Simple

ART, MUSIC, FUN—IN THE OPEN AIR.

BY ALEXIS CAMPBELL

**H**ere are some things that are fun: eating food, listening to live music, walking around outside in beautiful spring weather, and watching artists work. Well, head to Camp Hill for the fourth annual Plein Air Camp Hill Competition and Arts Festival, held all over town from May 16 to 18, and you can do all of those fun things.

“Plein air” is used to describe the act of painting outdoors. It comes from the French phrase “en plein air,” meaning “in the open air.” The 19th-century impressionists were famous for plein air painting, used to capture the effects of sunlight at different times of the day.

Plein Air Camp Hill started in 2011 by the nonprofit Economic and Cultural Development Group of Camp Hill, which organizes the festival in partnership with Camp Hill Borough. It has grown in size and scope ever since.

“This competition and festival have become a ‘don’t miss’ event showcasing regional and national artists, all painting live outdoors, and Camp Hill’s commitment to the arts, education, our youth, and business and economic development,” said

Craig Bachik, executive director of the Economic and Cultural Development Group. “Each year, attendance has grown as artists and guests are traveling from as far away as Massachusetts to participate and attend.”

Julie Riker of Camp Hill is one of the participating artists. She’s also president of the Susquehanna Plein Air Painters and has participated every year since the festival began. I asked her about her experience painting “for a crowd.”

“Well, every time you paint outside, it’s likely that you’ll run into the public in some capacity,” she explained. “People often ask questions or just watch you work. I’ve actually sold paintings that way. Someone watches you paint a piece, and they feel a sense of ownership.”

Why paint plein air instead of in a studio?

“I love being outside,” Riker explained. “Some people like to golf outside, some people like to fish outside...I like to paint outside. I also like painting from life rather than from a photograph. Even if I’m painting indoors, I set up a still life rather than paint from a photograph. And painting plein air is challenging simply because you’re sort of racing







against the clock. The light changes, so you have to make decisions quickly.”

The festival kicks off Friday morning as artists set up easels all over Camp Hill. A special Collectors’ Preview Party begins at 5 p.m. at Gallery 2318 (2318 Market St., Camp Hill), where partygoers will have an opportunity to check out the work of 72 artists and photographers from five states who have entered into the festival’s juried portion, as well as student artwork. The \$25 tickets can be purchased on the festival’s website.

While there are activities on both Saturday and Sunday, Saturday boasts the most action. In addition to artists painting plein air all day, there are “Quick Draw” competitions for both youth and adults. Participants will choose a location within a designated area and will have two hours to create a piece of art from scratch.

There will also be a “Quick Shoot” photography competition on Saturday, during which photographers will have 24 hours to take photos within the borough, print and frame their photos, and hang them for exhibition and judging.

Additionally, there will be free workshops on all

sorts of art media from painting to glass blowing, bonsai, jewelry and more, as well as painting activities for artists of all ages. The “Youth Paint Out” is always a hit among the younger set as everybody wins free ice cream and older participants compete for cash prizes.

While focused on art, live music will be found in several locations, including Willow Park Gazebo. On Saturday morning, for instance, renowned local classical/jazz/flamenco guitarist John Catalano will perform.

This year, the festival will add a “business scavenger hunt” involving businesses from Camp Hill and surrounding areas. It begins before the festival does, on May 12, and lasts until May 17.

“At each participating location, a tidbit of local Camp Hill history or trivia will be posted in plain view on a petal-shaped piece of colored paper,” explained Bachik. “Teams will have the week to locate and glean certain information from them, [which] will be useful in solving the scavenger hunt final answer.”

When a team has visited each location, it will have to decipher a final question, he said. The answer

to that question will be revealed on Saturday, and a drawing from the teams’ submitted answers will determine the winner. The grand prize is \$1,000.

Proceeds from the festival benefit a variety of activities and projects. Among the most visible are banners featuring student artwork.

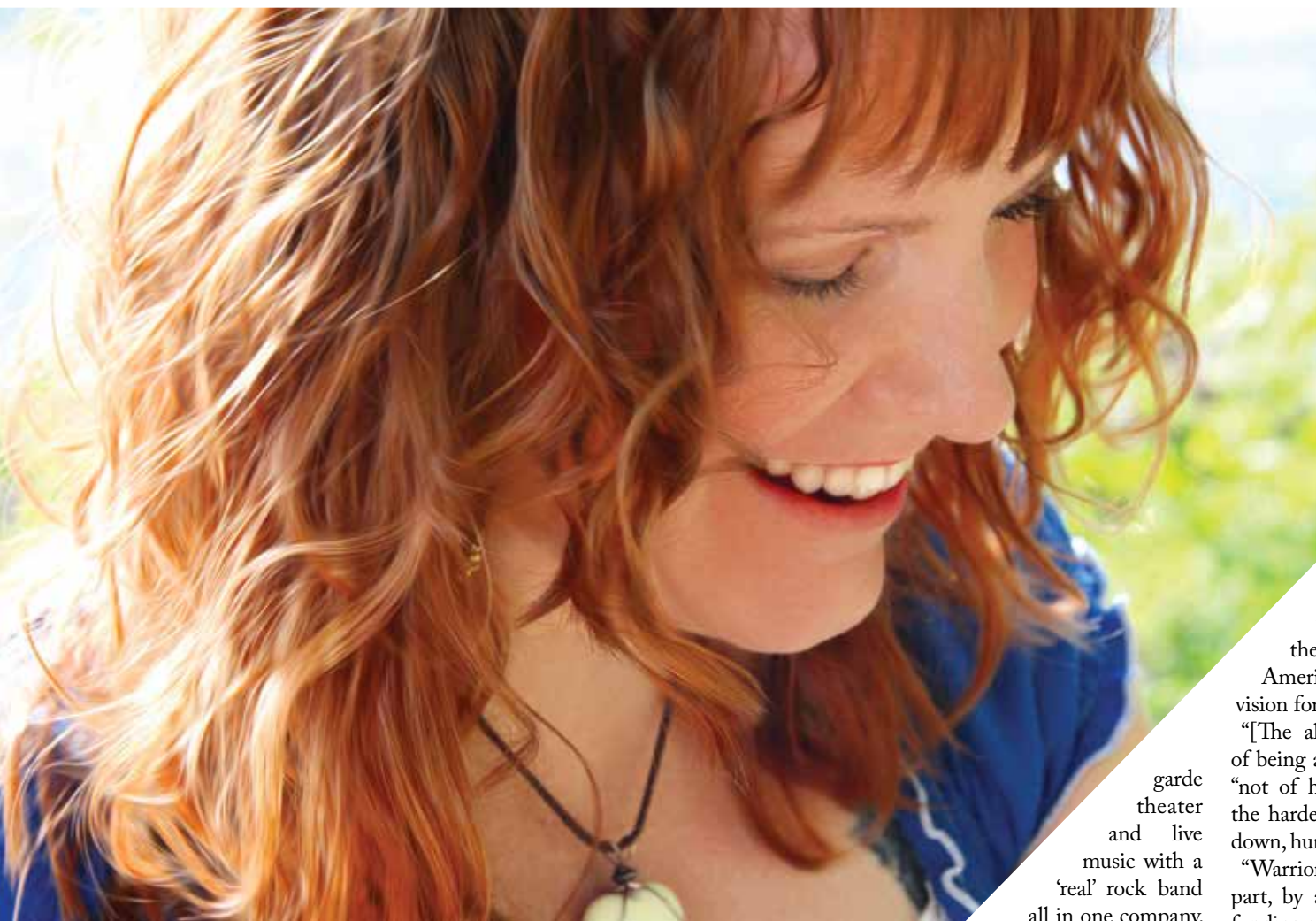
“I love to see the student art banners blowing in the breeze along Market Street, knowing that 10 area schools have worked on this cooperative project,” said Susan Schreckengast, a member of the festival planning committee.

Proceeds from this year’s event also will be placed in an endowment fund created to provide scholarships to art students of all ages and for organizations and events seeking funding to support community-based arts programming, said Bachik.

“The proceeds go towards promoting and enhancing artistic expression in our region and to improve our quality of life through the arts,” he said. **B**

*For a complete schedule of events and to learn how you can be a part of the festival, visit [pleinaircamphill.org](http://pleinaircamphill.org).*





## WARRIOR OF SONG

*Musician Widad on her past, her coming release and the Harrisburg arts wave.*

BY ALEXIS DOW CAMPBELL

Music has been a part of Harrisburg-based singer-songwriter Camela Widad's life for, well, pretty much all of it.

The folky songstress (she pronounces her first name like 'Pamela' with a "C" and her last like saying yes in French, Wee-Dod) began her musical training at age 7 and continued through high school. But, despite her immersion in music, she never really considered it a career option.

"When I was a junior in high school, I was accepted into five universities and, on a whim, I applied for a theater scholarship at one and got it," she explained. "So, sort of last minute, I decided to let out the secret that I always saw myself on the stage."

Widad got a degree in theater performance and spent several years as a working actor. And, although she did venture into musical theater every now and again, she found that her musical abilities were called upon fairly often.

"I would add music or singing to roles that had none or add harmonies to songs in shows that previously didn't have any," Widad explained. "People started to take notice, more often than not, guys in bands that wanted a singer or playwrights who wanted a song or music in their show."

Eventually, she was given an opportunity that set her on the path she is on today. "When I was 23, I ended up with an amazing theater gig: sketch comedy, avant

garde theater and live music with a 'real' rock band all in one company. I was in heaven!" she said.

Widad was performing more and more music, and people liked it.

"The regulars in the audience started really responding to my singing, and I took it as a sign," she explained. Widad took her one original song, started hitting open mics, and things began to take off.

"Within six months, I had 10 new songs, was in the studio and had a manager," she said. She decided to hit the road and head to Austin, Texas, "just to see what would happen."

"I just thought, okay, let's try this for a while, and it turned into 10 years of being an indie artist, learning the art and craft of songwriting and meeting so many amazing people," she said.

Widad describes her sound as having the "passion of old school soul, but then, at the last minute, some softness kicks in that makes it feel like '60s folk."

"I've always been drawn to the human experience," she said, "good, bad, darkness and lightness of living, so the writing reflects those stories of hope and heartache. Songs about real folks."

Widad released her first album, "Eve," in 1999, which she describes

as "a gritty folk rock album." She then recorded 2001's completely acoustic "Call to the Soul," followed by "Food for the Traveler" (2005) and "Before You're Gone" (2009), both of which were recorded with a full band.

"From my first album, I've explored sound," she said. "[I wasn't] sure who I was as an artist and, insatiably curious about so many genres, [I was] wondering where I wanted to land."

Widad's fifth studio album, "Warriors of Love," will be released this spring. She describes the album as "folk, acoustic, Americana," and she had a specific vision for the album.

"[The album] inspires the concept of being a warrior," Widad explained, "not of hate or revenge, but one of the hardest things to be when you're down, hurt or angry: a warrior of love."

"Warriors of Love" was funded, in part, by a campaign on the crowdfunding site Indiegogo. Although the Indiegogo campaign has ended, she is still collecting donations through her website to fund a corresponding radio campaign in support of the album.

Widad now lives in Harrisburg, which is exactly where she wants to be.

"I am finding that there is a renaissance happening for Harrisburg on many levels," she said. "So many creative people are coming here to not only find inexpensive spaces to live and create, but there are new venues popping up. The grassroots community is gathering to create space for art and music, farmers markets, green initiatives... this is how great cities are made."

She believes that artists can lead the way to create a social scene that attracts tourism and gathers people together, while creating something beautiful.

"I feel like being in Harrisburg right now is the perfect time because the wave has begun," she said. **B**

*Learn more about Camela Widad and her music at [www.widadmusic.com](http://www.widadmusic.com).*



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# WHAT'S IN "GOD'S POCKET"?

*First-time director takes bleak  
view of life in South Philly.*

BY SAMMI LEIGH MELVILLE

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## MAY EVENTS

### *1st Sunday Brunch & a Movie*

5/4 10:30 a.m. brunch and 11:00  
screening of Mel Brooks' "Spaceballs"

### *1st Sunday Foreign Series*

5/4 7 p.m. Jean Cocteau's 1946 French  
romantic fantasy "La Belle et la Bête"  
("Beauty and the Beast")

### *2nd Saturday*

5/10 Saturday Morning Cartoons  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

### *2nd Sunday AFI Top 100 Series*

5/11 7 p.m. "Psycho"—watch the  
Hitchcock classic for Mother's Day.  
Bring your mom or dress up as  
Norman to get a prize!

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

05/16 9:30ish "Blazing Saddles"  
celebrates its 40th anniversary! BYOB

### *5/17-5/21 Jewish Film Festival*

### *3rd Sunday Down in Front!*

#### *Comedy Riffing with Jennie Adams*

5/18 7 p.m. "The Horror of Party  
Beach" (1964) BYOB

### *4th Sunday Documentary Series*

5/25 7 p.m. "Paper Clips" (2004)

5/29 7 p.m. *Oliver Stone's "JFK"*  
—watch the 1991 docudrama to  
celebrate John F. Kennedy's birthday

**T**he world is made up of firsts,  
and the film reviewed here is  
no exception.

John Slattery, who has  
directed a handful of episodes of  
"Mad Men," has taken his first crack  
at a feature film with "God's Pocket,"  
an adaptation of another first, a novel  
by Pete Dexter. "God's Pocket" depicts  
a section of South Philadelphia where  
uneducated, brawl-happy people  
are the norm, and everybody knows  
everybody's business.

Renowned columnist Richard  
Shelburn (Richard Jenkins) narrates,  
"Everyone here has stolen something  
from somebody else, or, when they  
were kids, they set someone's house  
on fire... And no matter what anybody  
does, they're still here. And whatever  
they are is what they are. The only  
thing they can't forgive is not being  
from God's Pocket."

Except for Mickey Scarpato (Philip  
Seymour Hoffman). Mickey only  
came to the Pocket through his wife,  
Jeannie (Christina Hendricks), but  
has fitted himself quite well into  
society, mostly because he's just a  
plain decent guy. He scrapes up a  
living, albeit a slightly illegal living,  
selling meat out of the back of a truck,  
and Jeannie... well, Jeannie looks out  
of place, being the prettiest woman  
around, and doesn't do much with her  
time other than serve as a blue-collar  
trophy wife. Her son, Leon (Caleb  
Landry Jones), works at a local  
construction site, and his tendency  
to pick fights and sling racial slurs  
leans toward the sociopathic. When  
Leon threatens a coworker, the man  
retaliates and lays a fatal blow to the  
back of his head. Choosing to side  
with anyone over Leon, the other  
construction workers cover for the  
man, claiming that "something fell"  
and struck Leon.

Jeannie becomes ill with grief  
at the news of her son's death,  
leaving Mickey to make the funeral



*Portrait of Phillip Seymour Hoffman, by Liz Larabee. [www.lizlarabee.com](http://www.lizlarabee.com)*

arrangements. But, when she hears  
the claims that his death was an  
accident, she won't believe it—she  
just knows that something's not  
right. She asks Mickey to investigate.  
Richard Shelburn has also been sent  
to get the real scoop on Leon, having  
become something of a local legend  
in God's Pocket. But Shelburn  
is not the put-together writer he  
used to be; he passes the time  
nursing his alcoholism and traipsing  
after women, and, upon arrival in  
the Pocket, he immediately becomes  
infatuated with Mrs. Scarpato.

And so the plot unfolds. Mickey gets  
his friend, Arthur (John Turturro), to  
try to scare some details out of the  
boys at Leon's work, and Shelburn  
tries to woo Jeannie into sleeping  
with him. Meanwhile, Mickey  
has financial troubles that cause  
some awkward things to happen at  
the morgue.

The tone of the film differs greatly  
from the book, which is a dark  
comedy. Not that the film doesn't  
have its darkly comedic and absurdist  
moments, but it would be better  
described as a harsh glimpse into a  
whirlpool of hopelessness. Hopefully,  
this switch in tone was a conscious  
decision, and I almost wish that the

film had carried the theme all the  
way to the end, but, instead, it ended  
with a moment of minute happiness,  
trying to wrap things up for our man,  
Mickey. The clinch of the story is how  
the inhabitants of God's Pocket are  
continually pulled into the whirlpool,  
and the ending detracts from that  
somewhat.

The problem with a story whose  
characters internalize their bleak  
outlook is that the cast doesn't  
quite have the chance to show off  
its theatrical prowess. It is almost  
a shame that the likes of Philip  
Seymour Hoffman and Christina  
Hendricks didn't have more  
emotional range to work with. That  
being said, each character is very  
much realized and has the potential  
to tug at your heartstrings.

All in all, I've got to give Slattery  
credit for his first feature. "God's  
Pocket" is definitely worth watching,  
and I'll be interested to see what lies  
in store next for him.

"God's Pocket" will be playing at  
the Midtown Cinema in May. Come  
experience it for yourself. **B**

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





## MUSICAL MOBILITY


*In May, the tunes are worth a drive.*

BY DANIEL WEBSTER JR.

Get out of town. No, really. I've got two excellent acts to check out that are within the bounds of the commonwealth and one central PA headliner that is fit to go national, but will be gracing the stage of a local venue. So, dust off your car or stay put. I'm wagering the weather and the tunes will be good either way.

WYE OAK, 5/3, 7 P.M., THE CHAMELEON CLUB (LANCASTER), \$12/\$14: A Baltimore duo at a Lancaster landmark makes a nice pairing. I first listened to Wye Oak's LP, "My Neighbor/My Creator," when released in 2010. The song, "I Hope You Die," made a great impact, a melodic tune in contrast to its rather brash title; Jenn Wasner (lead vocals, guitar) brings lyrical significance and potent vocal control to this track. While that single track is not entirely exemplary of their body of work (she plays alongside her maybe-boyfriend and drummer, Andy Stack), employing more synth and piano than their more customary heavy guitar and drum work, they are one of Baltimore's darlings. Atomic Books even had a listening party on April 30 for their new album, "Shriek." See them while they're still affordable and playing in honest, local spaces like The Chameleon Club.

DANA FUCHS, 5/23, 7 P.M., WORLD CAFÉ LIVE (PHILADELPHIA), \$18-\$20: As billed by the World Café Live, all Dana Fuchs has to do is sing. After a few listens, Fuchs' southern rock 'n' roll and blues fusion songs are for just that. Her sultry, powerful voice is on display in every track, and it's no wonder she was cast as Janis Joplin in the hit off-Broadway musical show "Love Janis." Taking in a show in the three-tiered World Café Live, WXPB's headquarters, is a full-service treat that concert-goers will appreciate.

VERY AMERICANS & DUCKY & THE VINTAGE, 5/31, 8 P.M., FEDLIVE, \$8 (IN ADVANCE) \$10 (DOOR): The indie rock band Very Americans is comprised entirely of central PA'ers. Their EP "Stereo Types" on Eulogy Recordings, a subsidiary of Sony, aims to take the local boys into new territory by selling this production internationally. The band's sound takes cues from its punk background, particularly in the song "Floodgates," but Garrett Rothman's vocals bring them back to a more traditional, Brandon Flower-like (The Killers) ring to it. While more comparisons could be made, give their four-track a listen, and, if you enjoy, support these good ole Americans. 

*Mentionables: Of Montreal, Union Transfer (Philadelphia), 5/12; The Pains of Being Pure at Heart, Johnny Brenda's (Philadelphia), 5/19; Ethan Bortnick, Whitaker Center, 5/31*



WYE OAK, MAY 3

THE CHAMELEON CLUB  
223 N. WATER ST. LANCASTER  
STARTS AT 7 PM



OF MONTREAL, MAY 12

UNION TRANSFER  
1026 SPRING GARDEN ST.,  
PHILADELPHIA  
STARTS AT 5:30 PM



DANA FUCHS, MAY 23

WORLD CAFÉ LIVE  
3025 WALNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA  
STARTS AT 7 PM



VERY AMERICANS & DUCKY  
& THE VINTAGE, MAY 31

FEDLIVE  
234 N. 2ND ST., HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 PM



Wye Oak (Photo credit: finelinemusic.com)



## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Spring Auction

May 2: St. Stephen's Episcopal School will hold its annual Spring Auction, featuring live and silent auctions. All proceeds will benefit the school. Tickets are available online or at the school office. For more information, visit [sseschool.org](http://sseschool.org).

### Introduction to Aromatherapy

May 3: Emma's on Third will hold an aromatherapy class, 1-3 p.m. Reservations suggested as space is limited. \$10 class fee. For more information, call 717-233-3662.

### Derby Day

May 3: Watch the Run for the Roses in style at the 13th annual Derby Day, which benefits the arts group, Jump Street. This year, the event gallops back to the Harrisburg area, taking place at the Mount Hill Tavern, 2120 Colonial Rd. Information can be found at [jumpstreet.org](http://jumpstreet.org).

### Community Yard Sale

May 3: Riverside United Neighbors will host a yard sale at the firehouse at N. 4th and Lewis streets, Harrisburg. Various organizations and non-profits will be present. For more information, call 717-238-3712.

### Pancake Breakfast

May 3: Members of the Keystone Capital Chorus will hold a pancake breakfast at the Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Rd., Camp Hill. Pancakes will be all-you-can-eat. There will also be a bake sale and live music. The breakfast is 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. with tickets \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids 6 to 12. For more, call 717-766-8127.

### Trash to Treasure

May 3: Learn to transform your garden using sustainable ideas while utilizing the concepts of re-use and up-cycling. The free event will start at the Broad Street Market in Harrisburg at 10 a.m. with a clean up beginning at 9 a.m. For more information, email [t2tfestival@gmail.com](mailto:t2tfestival@gmail.com).

### Great Harrisburg Cleanup

May 3: The Great Harrisburg Cleanup is back for a second year. Projects will take place throughout the city, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To volunteer, organize a project or make a donation, visit [www.historicharrisburg.com](http://www.historicharrisburg.com).

### Garden Faire

May 4: Make the most of spring at Fort Hunter Park's Garden Faire. Browse through plant sales and craft tents and enjoy the exhibits on Victorian life. The event is free to the public, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [dauphincounty.org](http://dauphincounty.org).

### Harrisburg Walks Together

May 4: Join a 2.5-mile walk through Harrisburg's Riverfront Park, beginning at the Jewish Community Center and ending at the Pennsylvania Holocaust Monument, to support tolerance and raise money to repair and maintain the monument. The walk begins at 2 p.m. For more, visit [holocaustmonument.myevent.com](http://holocaustmonument.myevent.com).

### Commonwealth Interfaith Service

May 5: Observe National Day of Prayer at the Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg. A diverse group will be present, and many forms of prayer will be offered starting at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [pachurchesadvocacy.org](http://pachurchesadvocacy.org).

### Project 20

May 8: The debut of Project 20 will be held at the Kunkel Lounge at the International House on Chestnut Street in Harrisburg, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. It will feature unique pieces of art by local and international artists, as well as live music, wine and cheese and chances to mingle. For more, call 717-236-5061 or email [denisetreaster@harristown.net](mailto:denisetreaster@harristown.net).

### Midtown May Market

May 10: Have something to sell? Then join Friends of Midtown for their annual community-wide yard sale, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., throughout Midtown Harrisburg. At the same time, Second City Church, 251 Verbeke St., will host an indoor market. For more, visit [friendsofmidtown.org](http://friendsofmidtown.org) or their Facebook page.

### For the Love of Chocolate

May 10: Learn about the rich history of chocolate and the Hershey story with Sharon Cin, supervisor of Chocolate Lab. You also can learn how to prepare chocolate in various ancient ways. The event will be 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill. Visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### Tea at the Harris-Cameron Mansion

May 10: A Mother's Day weekend tea will be held at the Harris-Cameron mansion in Harrisburg. A portrayal of Margaretta "Maggie" Cameron, played by re-enactor Elizabeth Dillion, will host the tea and share stories of the Cameron family's travels across Europe. Tickets are \$20 and \$15 for Historical Society members. Please visit [dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org).

### Fredricksen Reads

May 13: Join the Fredricksen Library for a book discussion about Louise Erdrich's "The Round House," a story that takes place on the Ojibwe reservation. The discussion begins at 7 p.m. Visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### German Jackson House

May 13: Historian Calobe Jackson leads a talk on the importance of the German Jackson House in Harrisburg history. Presentation begins at 6 p.m. at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. RSVP to [Cindy@HistoricHarrisburg.com](mailto:Cindy@HistoricHarrisburg.com) or call 717-233-4646. Visit [historicharrisburg.com](http://historicharrisburg.com).

### Candidate Debate

May 14: Harrisburg Hope will sponsor a candidate debate between state Rep. Patty Kim and her Democratic primary challenger Gina Johnson-Roberson. The event starts at 6 p.m. at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg.

### Stress Relief Walk

May 14: Hike away your troubles at Wildwood Park with a three-mile, slightly vigorous walk along easy trails. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. For more information on this free event, visit [dauphincounty.org](http://dauphincounty.org).

### Jewish Film Festival

May 15-22: The Harrisburg Jewish Film Festival returns to Midtown Cinema this year for most of its movies, which range broadly in subject and sensibility. In addition, the State Museum will host several unique events on May 18, including a showing and discussion of the classic film, "Good-Bye Columbus," and the presentation, "Jews in Toons," by long-time Simpsons' writer/producer Mike Reiss. For more, see our feature story in this issue or visit [hbgjff.wordpress.com](http://hbgjff.wordpress.com).

### Town Band

May 16: The New Cumberland Town Band will hold a concert at Cedar Cliff High School in Camp Hill at 7 p.m. along with the school's band. For more, visit [nctownband.org](http://nctownband.org).

### Plein Air Competition and Festival

May 16-18: The annual festival features art and photography from dozens of artists from five states, exhibiting art in and around Willow Park in Camp Hill. There will be an art competition in addition to the free workshops, lectures, live music and food. Much of the festival is free. For more information, see our feature story in this issue or visit [pleinaircamphill.org](http://pleinaircamphill.org).

### Greek Fest

May 16-18: The annual Greek Fest returns to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Camp Hill. Enjoy some of the area's finest Greek food, in addition to music, dancing and vendors. Visit [pagreekfest.org](http://pagreekfest.org) for more information.

### Girls on the Run

May 17: 500 girls from grades 3 to 8 will represent schools from Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties in the Capital Area Girls on the Run 5k. The run begins at the Milton Hershey School campus at 10 a.m., with registration starting at 8 a.m. All proceeds benefit the Capital Area Girls on the Run. Visit [CapAreaGirlsontheRun.org](http://CapAreaGirlsontheRun.org).

### Walking with Color Guard

May 17: Support more than 45 non-profit organizations at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. On-site registration will be available at HACC starting at 7:45 a.m. The walk begins at 9 a.m., and the 1-Mile Fun-Walk is at 9:15 a.m. For more information, visit [walkforahealthycommunity.org](http://walkforahealthycommunity.org).

### Adaptive Reuse

May 20: Frank Dittenhaffer of Dittenhaffer and Murphy will offer tips on how to make environmentally responsible decisions for homeowners seeking to combine a vintage feel with green sensibilities in their historic homes. Talk begins at 6 p.m. at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. RSVP to [Cindy@HistoricHarrisburg.com](mailto:Cindy@HistoricHarrisburg.com) or call 717-233-4646. Visit [historicharrisburg.com](http://historicharrisburg.com).

### Artsfest & Filmfest

May 24-26: Produced by Jump Street, Artsfest returns to the Harrisburg waterfront, featuring an arts competition, art sale, vendors, food and entertainment. In addition, Moviate marks its 16th year hosting the Artsfest Film Festival, with locations around Harrisburg. For more information, visit [jumpstreet.org](http://jumpstreet.org) and [moviate.org](http://moviate.org).

### Pinterest Party

May 25: Make use of the projects on Pinterest involving up-cycled wood scraps at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill. You will be able to make decorations such as personalized signs, coat hook boards and more. Basic supplies are provided. For ages 16 and up; the cost is \$5. Visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### Ladies Who Lead

May 29: The Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC will hold a half-day conference encouraging women to lead in any career. There will be a luncheon, keynote presentation and various sessions. For more, visit [harrisburgregionalchamber.org/events](http://harrisburgregionalchamber.org/events).



## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

**Antique Auto Museum at Hershey**  
161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100; aacamuseum.org

"The Scrutineer," the automobile photography of Jay Texter, May 5-July 13.

"Morning Mysteries of the Far East," an exhibit showcasing vehicles manufactured in countries such as Russia and India that are unknown in the United States, May 17-Sept. 14.

**Art Association of Harrisburg**  
21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; artassocofhbg.com

"Five Artist Invitational Exhibit," featuring the art of Joseph Dudding of Shiremanstown, Mary Lee Kerr of Boalsburg, Cynthia Nixon of State College, Dennis Revitzky of Honeoye Falls, N.Y., and Bob Willis of Shiremanstown, through May 8.

"86th Annual Juried Exhibition," May 17-June 19; reception May 17, 6-9 p.m.

**Brath and Hughes Fine Art**  
41 W. Main St., Mechanicsburg  
717-691-1333  
brathandhughesfineart.blogspot.com

Featured artists: Fredrick Swarr and Michael Peluso, through June.

**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Landscape art by Linda Hermann, through May 31.

**Fenêtre Gallery**  
HACC Midtown 2, 2nd Floor  
N. 3rd and Reily Streets, Harrisburg

"Grotesquerie," paintings by Kristi Arnold, through May 7.

"Edges of Light: Images of Breast Transformation," photographs by Wendy Palmer and verbal reflections by Kimberly Myers, May 16-July 9.

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

"Downton Elegance: Fort Hunter High Fashions of the Downton Abbey Era," an exhibit featuring dresses worn by Helen Reily, mistress of the Fort Hunter mansion, 1912-1918, May 1-Dec. 23.

"Peep Show," sculptures created using peeps, May 4-18.

**Gallery@Second**  
608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
galleryatsecond.com

Artwork by Sharon L. Putt and Jesus Martinez, through May 3.

Artwork by Christopher Lyter and Christina Heintzelman, May 3-June 14; reception, May 16, 6-9 p.m.

**Historical Society of Dauphin Country**  
219 S. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-233-3462  
dauphincountyhistory.org

"Reily Family Portraits," through June 26.

**Landis House**  
Perry County Council of the Arts  
67 N. 4th St., Newport  
perrycountyarts.org

"Director's Choice," a collection of Youth Art Day artwork created by sophomores, juniors and seniors of Perry County public and private schools, through July 5.

**Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art**  
176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; nedsmithcenter.org

"The Art of Tom Duran," through Aug. 30.

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

"Mother's Day Jewelry Trunk Show," an exclusive showcase of unique mixed metal jewelry, handcrafted by local artist Marlene Quigley, through May 10.

"Yellow Breeches Chapter of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen," showcasing YBCPGC member artwork, through May 28.

**Rose Lehrman Art Gallery**  
One HACC Dr., Harrisburg  
717-780-2435; hacc.edu

Honors Shows, through May 7.

**Susquehanna Art Museum**  
300 North St., Harrisburg  
sqart.com (at the State Museum)

"Lost World/Found World," artwork representing abstract themes through line, color or concept, through June 1.

**Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall**  
222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

"Cultivated Conscience," an exhibit by Central Dauphin High School's advanced painting class, taught by artist Tara Chickey, through May 30.

**Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

"Prismatic," paintings by Diana Balderson, through May 11.

"Our Voices: Refugee and Immigrant Women Tell Their Stories," portraits of women newcomers to Harrisburg and their stories of moving to the United States, May 13-June 15; reception, May 16, 6-10 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

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

May 4: Garden Faire, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**The LGBT Center of Central PA**  
1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534  
centralpalgbtcenter.org

May 4, 11, 18, 25: Alcoholics Anonymous, 12-1 p.m.

May 6: Women's Group, 7-9 p.m.  
May 7, 14, 21, 28: Common Roads Harrisburg, 6-8 p.m.

May 8, 22: Aging with Pride, 12-2 p.m.  
May 23: Open Mic Night, 7-9 p.m.

**Little Amps Coffee Roasters (Downtown)**  
133 State St., Harrisburg  
littleampscoffee.com

May 16: Bike Night featuring Recycle Bicycle

**The MakeSpace**  
1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgmakespace.com

May 1: Improv Comedy, 8 p.m.  
May 8: Untitled (Stories), 8 p.m.  
May 9: Play Reading Event, 8 p.m.

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

May 1, 15, 29: Camp Curtin Toastmasters, 6:30 p.m.

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.

May 1: Coffee with Alinsky with Nathan Sooy, 7 p.m.

May 2: Drepung Gomang Sacred Art Tour-Impermanence, 10 a.m.  
May 2, 9, 23, 30: Nathaniel Gadsden's Spoken Word Café, 7 p.m.

May 3: Good News Café, 6 p.m.  
May 4, 11, 18, 25: TED Talks, 1 p.m.

May 5: Swing Dance at the Scholar, 6:30 p.m.

May 6, 20: Meet-Up, 9 a.m.  
May 6: Sci Fi Writers Group, 7 p.m.

May 7, 14, 21, 28: Midtown Chess Club, 11 a.m.

May 11: The Divine Feminine: The Sanctity of the Womb presented by The Sanctuary Academy of Universal Enlightenment, Inc.

May 14, 28: Sydney's Book Club-Preschool Event, 10 a.m.

May 14: Friends of Midtown: Events Meeting, 6 p.m.

May 16: Coffee Education with café staff, 12 p.m.

May 16: Tea Tasting with café staff, 2 p.m.

May 16: Yellow Wall Gallery opening, 6 p.m.

May 16: TMI Improv

May 16: Comedy Night at the Scholar, 8 p.m.

May 18: LGBT Book Club, 5 p.m.

May 20: Young Dauphin County Democrats Meeting, 7 p.m.

May 21: Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, 7 p.m.

May 22: PARWIN Presentation, 6 p.m.

May 24: Foundation for Hope 2nd Annual Hope Summit, 10 a.m.

May 26: Feminism Group Book Club, 7 p.m.

May 28: Bike the Burg, 7 p.m.

**The Perfect 5th Musical Arts Center**  
6240 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
717-691-9100; theperfect5th.com

May 14: Music Theory Workshop: Modes, 6:45 p.m.

May 16: Guitar Collective, 7 p.m.

May 17: Clawhammer Banjo Workshop, 12 p.m.

May 28: Guitar Workshop: Chord Tone Soloing, 6:45 p.m.

May 31: Broadway Audition Workshop

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

May 4: Wild About Art: Wildlife in Watercolor, 1-3 p.m.

May 7: Bird Walk: Peak Migration, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

May 8: Bike Harrisburg: Greenbelt Bicycle Tour, 6-8 p.m.

May 10: Volunteer Work Day, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

May 10: Scout Workshop: Brownies "Wonderful Water," 10:20 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

May 11: Flower Walk: Jack in the Pulpits and Other Spring Flowers, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

May 14: Stress Relief Walk, 6-7:30 p.m.

May 17: Bird Walk: Nesting Songbirds, 8-10 a.m.

May 20: Outdoor Learning Day, all day.

## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

**Appalachian Brewing Co./ Abbey Bar**  
50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg  
717-221-1083; abcbrew.com

May 2: YellowDay, Shawan & The Wonton and Mockingbird

May 3: The Lebowskis

May 4: Conspirator

May 20: Dark Star Orchestra

May 30: Pitch Blak Brass Band

May 31: Rosco Bandana

**Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar**  
204 Locust St., Harrisburg  
717-909-9191; carleysristorante.com

May 1, 8, 11, 25: Anthony Haubert

May 2: Noel Gevers

May 3, 31: Roy Lefever

May 6, 13, 17, 20, 27: Brandon Parsons

May 7, 14, 28: Jessica Cook

May 9, 16, 29: Ted Ansel

May 10, 12, 19, 21, 30: Chris Gassaway

May 15, 22: Bernie Stevenson



**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
717-737-5026  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

May 2: Paul Zavinsky  
May 4: Colette & Kristen  
May 9: Mike Banks  
May 10: Bruce Springsteen  
Sing-Along  
May 11: Kat Carlsen Combo  
May 16: Kevin Kilne  
May 17: Rivers  
May 18: Doin' Time  
May 23: Tracy Eslinger  
May 24: Dovetail  
May 25: Eric Squindo  
May 30: Steve Wilkins  
May 31: Dan Zukowski

**Fed Live**  
234 N 2nd St, Harrisburg  
717-525-8077  
federaltaphousehbg.com

May 3: Jana Kramer  
May 27: Foxy Shazam  
May 31: Very Americans and Ducky  
& the Vintage

**The Garlic Poet Restaurant**  
148 Sheraton Drive, New  
Cumberland  
717-774-5435; garlicpoet.com

May 1: Jazz Me Duo

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

May 11: Harrisburg Symphony Youth  
Orchestra Concert  
May 13: Stuart and Friends  
May 17-18: Out with a Bang

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**  
1110 N. 3rd St. 268 Herr St.,  
Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; harrisburgarts.com

May 1: Nate Myers  
May 3: The Dogs  
May 8: Strangest of Places  
May 10: Manian and  
the Monumentals  
May 11: Sycamore Slough  
String Band  
May 15: Mojo Flame  
May 17: Grant Goldsworthy,  
Nathan Veshecco w/the  
Monroe Sisters' Brothers  
May 23: Samuel Danielson and  
the Blue Root & Matt Otis and  
the Sound  
May 30: Blushing Tree  
Every Wednesday, Open Mic  
w/Mike Banks

**Hollywood Casino at Penn National**  
777 Hollywood Blvd., Grantville  
877-565-2112; hollywoodpnrc.com

May 3: Funktion  
May 10: Blue Moon Swamp  
May 16: The Luv Gods  
May 23: The Uptown Band  
May 24: Smooth Like Clyde  
May 31: Vinyl Groove

**Little Amps Coffee Roasters  
(Downtown)**  
133 State St., Harrisburg  
littleampscoffee.com

May 8: Amanda X, Andrew Platt,  
The Secret Band +1 TBA  
May 23: Flower Garden +1 TBA

**Little Amps Coffee Roasters  
(Uptown)**  
1836 Green St., Harrisburg  
littleampscoffee.com

May 10: Shine Delphi & Nathan  
Rivera and Marisa Anderson  
May 17: Nina Scarcia & poetry by  
Jeremy Ritch  
May 24: Ohioan, Many Trails &  
Indian Burn  
May 31: Matt Tarka +1 TBA

**Luhrs Performing Arts Center**  
1871 Old Main Dr., Shippensburg  
717-477-7469; luhrscenter.com

May 2: Brian Regan  
May 17: Ronnie Milsap  
May 31: The Turtles and  
The 5th Dimension

**The MakeSpace**  
1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgmakespace.com

May 10: You You Dark Forest/From  
Fragile Seeds

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

May 2: Keith Kenny  
May 2: Robert Thompson  
May 10: Mycenea Worley  
May 16: Seasons  
May 31: Elijah Cross

**MoMo's BBQ & Grille**  
307 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-230-1030  
momosbbqandgrill.com

May 2: Soul House  
May 9: The Grove  
May 15: The Robinsons  
May 16: Back Rhoads  
May 23: Wise and Watson  
May 29: Nate Myers Duo  
May 30: The Buskers

**The Perfect 5th Musical Arts Center**  
6240 Carlisle Pike, Mechanicsburg  
717-691-9100; theperfect5th.com

May 4: Acoustic Jam  
May 28: Open Mic Night

**St. Thomas Roasters**  
5951 Linglestown Rd., Linglestown  
717-526-4171; stthomasroasters.com

May 2: Tom Yoder  
May 3: Jim Baker  
May 4: Bluegrass Sunday  
May 8: Kelsey Kindall  
May 9: Sterling Koch  
May 10: Just Dave  
May 15: Mark Lubbers  
May 16: Cotolo  
May 17: Rhodes Butt  
May 22: "Bruce Springsteen Night"  
May 23: Paul Zavinsky  
May 24: 2 Sides 2 Die  
May 29: 6 Bar Break  
May 30: Marie Smith  
May 31: Him & Me

**The Susquehanna Folk  
Music Society**  
717-745-6577; sfmsfolk.org

May 11: Jam Session  
May 18: Neidig, Koretzky, Gehret  
& Campbell (at Appalachian  
Brewing Co.)

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

May 14: Straight No Chaser  
(at The Forum)  
May 20: Dark Star Orchestra  
May 24: Jimmy Wayne  
(at The Forum)  
May 31: Ethan Bortnick  
w/Damian McGinty

## THE STAGE DOOR

**2nd Street Comedy Club**  
236 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-681-8012  
secondstreetcomedyclub.com

May 2-3: Floyd J. Phillips  
w/Allen Trieu  
May 9-10: Michael Winslow

**Christian Performing Arts Center**  
1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd.,  
Middletown  
717-939-9333; hbg-cpac.org

May 2-4: Disney's High School  
Musical, Jr.

**Harrisburg Shakespeare Company**  
3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

May 30-June 14: Antony  
and Cleopatra

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

May 1-4: Flashdance: The Musical  
May 18: Hershey Theatre  
Apollo Awards

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**  
1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St.,  
Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; harrisburgarts.com

May 17-18: Edges: The Musical

**Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg**  
915 S. York St., Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535; ltmonline.net

May 2-4: And Then There  
Were None

**Open Stage of Harrisburg**  
223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-232-OPEN; openstagehbg.com

April 11-May 3: Clybourne Park

**Oyster Mill Playhouse**  
1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill  
717-737-6768; oystermill.com

May 2-18: Company

**Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut**  
3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

May 1-22: The Little Mermaid

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

April 25-May 11: Sweeney Todd





Ross Willard working in his shop.

# HEY, BIKIE DUDE

*Recycle Bicycle's Ross Willard  
is Harrisburg's Go-to Bike Guy.*

//////////////////// BY MISSY SMITH //////////////////////

**R**oss Willard has some serious energy. When I recently visited his Bike Warehouse on a rainy Saturday, I was ready to go with my camera and a list of questions that I hoped to have answered about his non-profit organization, Recycle Bicycle.

After getting introductions out of the way, he jumped right in about the building we were standing in, a dim, damp, yet expansive warehouse that was donated to his organization to use as a repair shop. He told me about the countless bikes that go through triage at the warehouse and the importance of teaching people how to fix their own bicycles. About the personal transformations that people experience through the organization. About the self-sufficiency, empowerment and public service that the organization provides.

After a thorough tour of the warehouse, I had quite a lot of my questions answered without having to ask. Willard is passionate, animated, relentless and strong-willed about a free public service that strives to keep the city's bikers safe—so much so that he left a corporate job on an early buyout to repair bikes.

## MORAL DILEMMA

Fourteen years ago, Willard encountered the personal resolve that would fuel the all-volunteer Recycle Bicycle community. As part of a food drive to feed people in Harrisburg, he acted as security for the group's food van and became disturbed by all of the kids who would pass by on the street, pushing bicycles without brakes on the tires. "I faced a moral dilemma," he reflects.

He remembers thinking that people who didn't have access to enough food wouldn't necessarily face the imminent threat of death. "But kids going through the intersection without brakes, that scared me."

So, he began setting up shop at intersections throughout the city with a little bike repair bag and waited for people with bikes that needed a little love. Recycle Bicycle volunteers would also crash block parties with large crowds, where they would set up a makeshift street repair shop. That small repair bag became a toolbox, which became a chest, then later a van, then a trailer and finally, the Bike

Warehouse, where Recycle Bicycle has operated for five years.

Within 15,000 square feet, Bike Warehouse is jam-packed with tires, wheels, brakes, chains, pedals, you name it. Most of the bike parts are donated or removed from bikes that are no longer suited for riding. These parts go toward the repair or the building of bikes, and the scrap metal is recycled.

"We're here to help people build their own bikes," says Willard. "We are a do-it-yourself shop that costs you nothing, but you have to invest in helping."

Willard doesn't believe in taking someone's bike and merely fixing it. Instead, Recycle Bicycle provides the tools and expertise to help people learn how to fix their bikes for themselves, at what he calls his "teaching warehouse." One of the greatest advantages that the organization provides is a sense of empowerment.

"Kids will be savvier when dealing with mechanics later in life," Willard explains. "They will know what questions to ask."

Other people come in to donate their time, helping with repairs, in sort of a work-share program, during which they can earn a bike after putting in the allotted number of hours.

"Recycle" is key in the organization's name. Willard is able to supply free bikes to the Harrisburg community because the parts that go toward repairs have been recycled from other bikes. Excess parts get shipped to other bike organizations throughout Pennsylvania and the world.

"We recycle everything: steel, aluminum, boxes [that held] parts that people donated, water bottles," Willard says. Any scrap metal that the organization collects, it recycles for cash that goes toward the purchase of tools.

Obviously, biking in an urban community, in and of itself, is a natural way to conserve resources. Within his organization, Willard not only demands bike safety, but he takes a strong stand on ecologically friendly habits and ways of life.

"Let's live on a bike in the city and be ecologically correct," he says. "We spend too much money on gas and oil. [Recycle Bicycle] is ecologically correct, and we help prevent too much car use."



## NOT A TOY

Volunteers provide an integral component to the organization. When I visited the Bike Warehouse, I met Greg Chiesa of Camp Hill, who was hard at work repairing bikes. By day, Chiesa works for the commonwealth and, in his spare time, he gives to the bike-building cause.

"I've always loved bikes, fixing them, riding them," says Chiesa, who says he didn't know about Recycle Bicycle until he started looking for a place where he could donate biking equipment. Before volunteering with the organization, he says, "I was always into 'the new.' But now, I ask, 'Can I fix it or recycle it?'"

While Recycle Bicycle reuses most of the frames and parts to build new bikes, some bike frames beyond repair are stowed away in their own special room at the Bike Warehouse. He and his team paint the unsalvageable bikes white and break out the "ghost bikes" once a year during the "Ride of Silence," in which they display the bikes as a memorial to the Pennsylvania bikers who died while riding in that particular year.

One particular bike that hangs within the warehouse, just beyond the entrance, leaves visitors with an uneasy feeling and a resonating lesson. It is painted in the innocent pink-and-white pattern of a child's bike, but has mangled wheels that offer a grim picture of what happened. Willard explains that the owner was a young girl who crashed with an oncoming motorist and lost her life.


"I use it as an illustration that [a bike] is not a toy, but a vehicle that can be deadly," Willard explains.

The smashed bike serves as a stark reminder that bike safety is important, and it paints a clear picture of why Willard is so impassioned about his volunteer service to the community.

He says that the organization needs more dedicated volunteers like Chiesa who have the serious desire to keep Harrisburg's biking community safe.

"I don't want the kids to die. I want people to learn that it's dangerous out there," he says. "We need more volunteers who understand that. They have to have my heart. I didn't burn out because I'm hyper."

His charismatic and entertaining personality, his fiery drive to make bikers safe and his non-profit repair shop have made Willard a popular sight in Harrisburg. He jokes that, when he isn't riding a bike, people will recognize his vehicle, run up to him and ask when the warehouse is open. Some nights, he will pass through rough parts of the city and, "Out of the shadows, I'll hear, 'Hey, bike dude,'" he laughs.

"We are the best guys in town, and we feel good about it," says Willard. "With whatever power you're given, use it correctly." 

*The Recycle Bicycle Bike Warehouse is located at 821 Elder St., Harrisburg; recyclebicycle@verizon.net.*



## BIKE HARRISBURG 2014

May is National Bicycle Month. So, it's a great time to check out some events that Bike Harrisburg, an advocacy group working to create a bicycle-friendly city, is either sponsoring or participating in. Visit [www.bikeharrisburg.org](http://www.bikeharrisburg.org) for a full calendar of Bike Harrisburg events.

### SATURDAY, MAY 10 12:45 P.M.

*14th & Derry Streets, Hbg*

#### Allison Hill Multi-Cultural Festival, Parade & Decorated Bike Contest

At 1 p.m., the parade will circle the neighborhood with marchers, dancers, musicians and various community groups. A decorated bike contest will be part of the parade. Recycle Bicycle will fix neighborhood bikes the rest of the afternoon.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17 11A.M. - 2 P.M.

*Midtown Campus of HACC, N.*

*4th & Reily Streets, Hbg*

#### Learn to Ride a Bike

Come to the parking lot at the Midtown Campus of HACC. Learn how to ride a bike for the first time or come pick up some pointers on how to improve your riding skills. Bring your own bike or use one of the bikes supplied by Recycle Bicycle. Minor free bike repairs are available for community residents.

### SUNDAY, MAY 19 11 A.M.

*Obelisk on Division Street, Hbg*

#### Seersucker & Lace Benefit Bicycle Ride

A fashion show on wheels. Awards will be presented for best-dressed man, the laciest woman, fanciest millinery and coolest bike. Kids must wear helmets, and all traffic laws must be obeyed. This is a public ride that looks like a fashion parade with wheels.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

#### Camp Hill Borough Hall & Capitol Ghost Bikes at the Capitol and International Ride of Silence

Be part of the bicycling press announcement at 10 a.m. on the Capitol steps surrounded by "ghost bikes" representing riders who died in Pennsylvania. The Ride of Silence will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Camp Hill Borough Hall at 2145 Walnut St., Camp Hill, part of a worldwide event to remember bicyclists who have been injured or killed. The silent ride will slowly travel to the Ghost Bike memorial at the state Capitol and back to Camp Hill.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

*Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St., Hbg*

#### Pennsylvania Bicycle Forum & Bike the Burg Meeting

A comprehensive, interactive discussion will focus on the rules of the road and Pennsylvania's 2012 bicycle safety legislation, plus bicycle commuting tips and transportation engineering solutions for bicyclists.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 1 1 P.M.

*City Line Diner, 3302 Derry St., Hbg*

**Capital Area Greenbelt Ride**  
Enjoy an 18-mile guided ride of the Capital Area Greenbelt. The ride starts on the Greenbelt behind the City Line Diner, 3302 Derry St., Harrisburg, at 1 p.m. The pace is casual. Riding surfaces vary, so mountain, touring or hybrid bikes are recommended.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8 9:30 A.M.

*HACC Wildwood Campus, 1*

*HACC Dr., Hbg*

#### Tour de Belt

This is your chance to have a great time on your bike while supporting the Capital Area Greenbelt. Volunteers are placed along the 18-mile route to cheerfully provide encouragement, directions and refreshments to all riders. To register or for more information, go to [www.caga.org](http://www.caga.org).







*Sophie Anderson, Ashlee & Graylen Miller*

## BROAD STREET MARKET EGG HUNT

Kiddies chased after colorful eggs while their parents cheered them on at the Easter egg hunt at the Broad Street Market. There was plenty of candy, music, a lemonade stand and lots of fun at the event, which took place in the courtyard between the two market buildings. Highland Gardens generously donated the potted plants that decorated the courtyard.



*Leonard Morris, Felicia Fisher, Keith & Kemani Jones*



*Alanna, Ryan & Anthony McMullan*



*Brent Durborow, Delaney Bleacher, Franklin & Lauren Cunjak*



*Cicely & Nakia Jones*

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



*Margaret Delmonico, Karen Maydick, Dr. Karen Scolforo, & Stacey Obi*



*Jennifer & Bob Keaton, & Laetitia & James Nulton*



*Lyn Dell Garrison & Michelle James*



*Jim Donovan & Katrina Anderson*

## CHAMBER ANNUAL DINNER

Harrisburg-area business leaders gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC at its annual dinner at the Hershey Lodge. Guests socialized, listened to speakers and learned what lies ahead as the Chamber begins its second century. Best-selling author Michael Parrish Dudell delivered the keynote on how to launch and grow a business.



*John Logan & Chris Judy*



# OUT with a BANG

SATURDAY | MAY 17 | 8 PM

SUNDAY | MAY 18 | 3 PM

Copland : *Quiet City*

Higdon : *Percussion Concerto*

*Chris Rose, Percussion*

Tchaikovsky : *Symphony No. 5*



HSO principal percussionist **Chris Rose** performed Jennifer Higdon's spectacular *Percussion Concerto* with the HSO in 2008. People have clamored for a repeat performance of this crowd-pleaser ever since! This program also includes Copland's contemplative *Quiet City* and Tchaikovsky's soul-searching 5th Symphony.



**Tickets start at just \$12!**

Visit [HarrisburgSymphony.org](http://HarrisburgSymphony.org) or call 717.545.5527



Harrisburg  
Symphony  
Orchestra

STUART MALINA, *Music Director*



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### **PARTICIPATING VENUES:**

3RD STREET STUDIO, 1725 N. 3RD ST., 7-9 PM  
ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG,  
21 N FRONT ST., 9:30 AM-9 PM  
BUDDHA BUDDHA, 400 N. 2ND ST., 6-10 PM  
FENETRE GALLERY AT HACC,  
HACC MIDTOWN 2, N. 3RD & REILY ST., 6-8 PM  
FRIENDS OF MIDTOWN, FRIENDSOFMIDTOWN.ORG  
LGBT CENTER GALLERY, 1306 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
LITTLE AMPS COFFEE ROASTERS, 1836 GREEN ST., 6-9 PM  
THE MAKESPACE, 1916 N. 3RD ST., 6-10 PM  
OLD CITY HALL APARTMENTS, 423 WALNUT ST. 9 AM-9 PM  
STASH, 234 NORTH ST., 5-9 PM  
ST@RTUP, 1519 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM  
UPTOWN POPUP/LAW OFFICE OF SHAMAINE DANIELS,  
2018 N. 3RD ST., SIDE ENTRANCE, 6-9 PM  
YELLOW BIRD CAFE, 1320 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM



# SUTLIFF



### **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 | LITTLE AMPS  
STATE MUSEUM | MIDTOWN SCHOLAR  
3RD AND WALNUT | 2ND AND WALNUT

## FRIDAY, MAY 16: 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: Featured Tea Tasting  
6 pm: Opening Reception for  
"Our Voices" photographs  
of Refugee and Immigrant  
Women by Catherine Wert  
in conjunction with The  
Pennsylvania Immigrant and  
Refugee Women's Network  
7 pm: TMI Improv  
8 pm: Comedy Night at  
the Scholar  
8 pm: Seasons in Concert



### **THE STATE MUSEUM** N. 3RD ST. (BETWEEN NORTH AND FORSTER)

787.4980 | STATEMUSEUMPA.ORG

5:30-7:30 pm: Special exhibit  
"A Fondness for Birds:  
Pennsylvania's Alexander  
Wilson." The exhibit will feature  
bird prints and first edition  
volumes of the 200-year-old  
"American Ornithology" series  
by Wilson, who is considered the  
father of American ornithology.  
Also featured will be a number  
of bird specimens from the  
museum's Botany and Zoology  
collections, some of which date  
to the late 19th century.



### **GALLERY@SECOND** 608 N. 2ND ST.

233.2498 | GALLERYATSECOND.COM

6-9 pm: Fine art reception for  
featured artists Christopher  
Lyter and Christina  
Heintzelman. Also visit our  
Upstairs Gallery featuring more  
than 250 pieces of artwork by  
local artists. Music by Jonathan  
Frazier. Refreshments served.  
3rd in The Burg Special—10%  
discount on all purchases made  
during the event. Visit us on  
Facebook: GalleryAtSecond.



### **EMMA'S ON THIRD** 1419 N. 3RD ST.

233.3662 | EMMASONTHIRD.COM  
@EMMASONTHIRD

6-8 pm: Learn to Spring  
Clean Naturally!  
Watch "Get The Real  
Dirt On Clean"

Featuring Carol Stockard with  
Body Bliss products, nature  
photography by Mary Brenner,  
and Ambient Cello & Guitar  
by Matt Masek.



### **HARRISBURG FOOD TRUCK FEAST**

1601 N. 3RD ST.  
HBGFOODTRUCKFEAST.COM

5-9 pm: The trucks for the  
May Feast are MAD  
Sandwiches, Up In Smoke BBQ,  
The Chicken Truck, Baron Von  
Schwein & Forno Inferno.  
Live Music



### **MANGIA QUI & SUBA** 272 NORTH ST.

233.7358 | MANGIAQUI.COM

5-11 pm: Featured artist is  
Janel Sheppo. The Desert Rose  
is the special featured cocktail  
in your hand.



### **HISTORIC HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION** 1230 N. 3RD ST.

233.4646 | HISTORICHARRISBURG.COM

5-9 pm: The Art Gallery at Historic  
Harrisburg will feature the life  
photography by Jeb Boyd. Light  
refreshments will be served during  
3rd in the Burg.



### **MIDTOWN CINEMA** 250 REILY ST.

909-6566 | MIDTOWNCINEMA.COM

9:30 pm: A \$3 film screening  
of "Blazing Saddles" and an  
after-party BYOB.



### **WHITAKER CENTER** 222 MARKET ST.

214.ARTS | WHITAKERCENTER.ORG

9:30 am-8 pm: "Cultivated  
Conscience"—The exhibition  
features the work of Central  
Dauphin High School's advanced  
painting class, taught by artist  
Tara Chickey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [THIRDDINTHEBURG.ORG](http://THIRDDINTHEBURG.ORG)