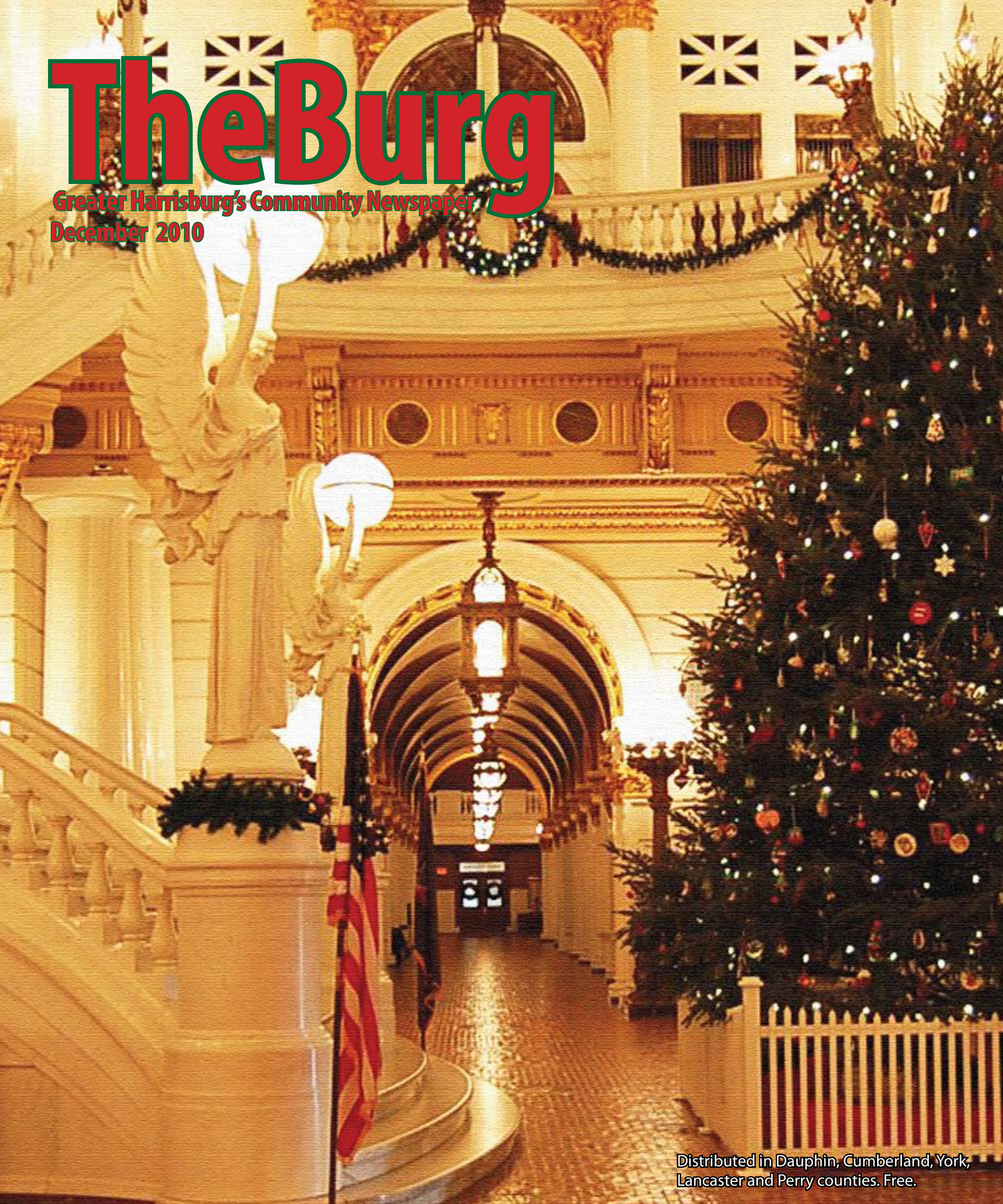


# TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

December 2010

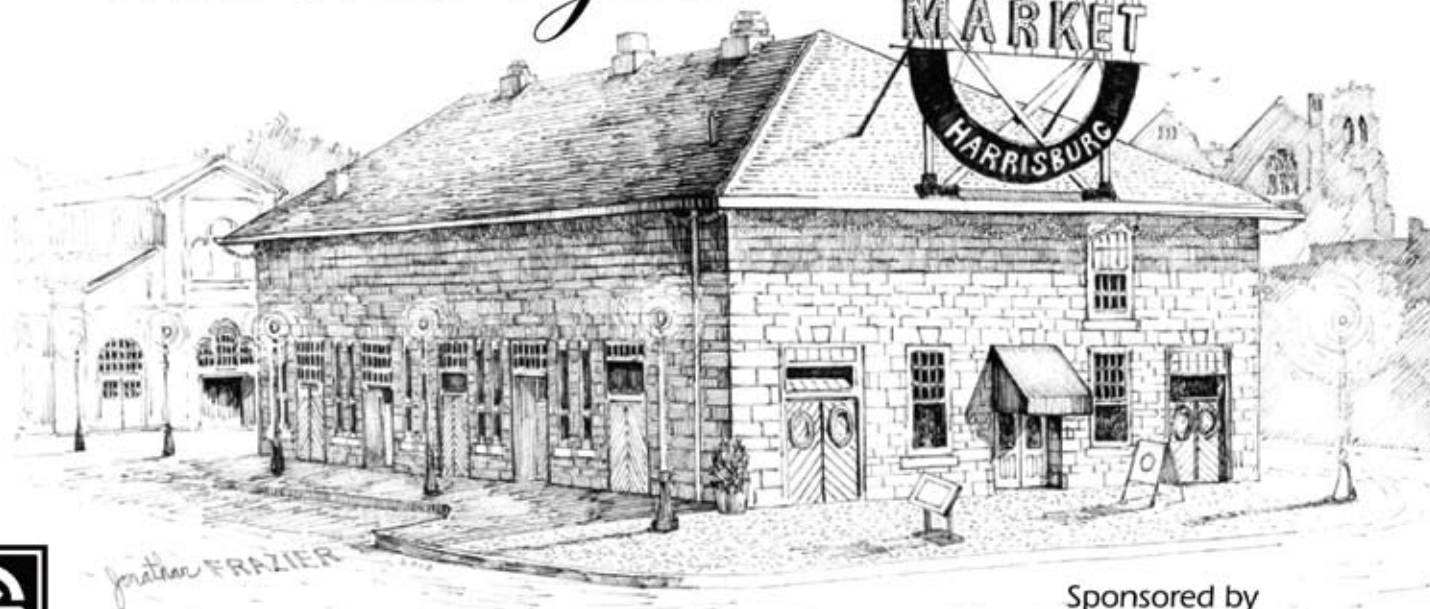


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*This month's cover:  
Christmas in the Capitol*



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## No Tax Increases in Budget Proposal

Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson proposed a 2011 budget last month that would not hike property taxes or water rates, but would raise parking fees and lead to Fire Bureau cuts.

The \$56.4 million spending plan now goes to the City Council, which will hold a series of budget hearings this month. A final council vote on the budget is slated for Dec. 16.

Thompson called her budget "an approach that best serves the city of Harrisburg."

Several council members, though, criticized the plan for suggesting closing one of the city's four fire stations, laying off five to seven firefighters, boosting the cost of residential parking permits 15–20 percent and raising parking meter rates from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per hour.

"I'm not certain how the city will be served with only three fire stations," said council member Susan Brown-Wilson.

The budget calls for one new position, a chief of staff, budgeted at \$78,000 per year. For years, the city's business administrator also has served as chief of staff.

The plan is only a general fund budget. It does not account for Harrisburg's massive debt tied to the city incinerator. That debt will be the focus of a broader plan once the city enters the state's Act 47 program.

## Decision Delayed on Act 47 Status

Harrisburg should finally learn this month whether it will enter Pennsylvania's "Act 47" program for distressed municipalities.

A decision likely will take place around mid-December, after more procedural hurdles are cleared.

Austin Burke, secretary of the state's Department of Community and Economic Development, was expected to make a decision soon after the Oct. 20 hearing on the city's application to enter the program, which provides funding and guidance to assist cities in financial distress. However, a series of motions filed by attorney Neil Grover of Debt Watch Harrisburg led to a delay in Burke's decision.

DCED ended up dismissing many of Grover's motions. Grover, though, made a compelling case that Act 47 is not enough—that the city's dire financial state compels it also to consider filing for municipal bankruptcy. The city's debt totals some \$282 million, most linked to faltering attempts over many years to upgrade the city incinerator.

Also last month, the state named former House Speaker Robert O'Donnell to help the city manage its financial crisis until it can enter the Act 47 program. At that point, a coordinator will be named to spearhead the creation of a comprehensive financial plan.

## Price Is Right: City Gets Free Lawyers

Harrisburg was handed a rare piece of good news last month, as the prestigious, white shoe law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore agreed to provide legal services to the City Council—for free.

The New York-based firm was one of five law firms interviewed by the council, which was seeking legal counsel to advise it on such complex matters as the state's Act 47 distressed municipality program and Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy. Council member Brad Koplinski broke the news at a council meeting that the firm had agreed to provide legal services at no cost, also known as "pro bono."

"This could save Harrisburg millions of dollars," said Koplinski.

Paul Zumbro, a Cravath partner, said his firm agreed to provide free legal counsel "to make a public service commitment."

"We thought we were the best people for the job, but we recognized that they couldn't afford to pay us our regular rates," he said.

Mayor Linda Thompson announced her support for the offer, an important endorsement since the administration selects legal counsel for the city.

"The firm will help clear the air of many of the misconceptions about bankruptcy," she said. "[The administration] will cooperate fully with the Cravath, Swaine & Moore lawyers and provide any information that will make their task easier."

The council later voted to formally accept the firm's offer. Cravath Swaine will issue a report summarizing its advice by March 31, said Koplinski. The firm also has offered to help negotiate with the city's creditors and represent the city if it decides to declare bankruptcy. The offer of free counsel lasts until Dec. 31, 2011.

Free legal representation eliminates one of the most powerful arguments against filing municipal bankruptcy—the enormous pricetag, mostly from legal costs. The city would be billed only for expenses incurred by the firm, such as for travel and lodging, an amount capped at \$20,000.

—Lawrance Binda

# TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

### General & Letters

TheBurg  
1103 N. Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17102  
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Editorial: 717-602-4300  
Ad Sales: 717-350-0428

### Publishers

Editor: Peter Durantine  
pdurantine@theburgnews.com

Advertising Executive:  
Angela Durantine  
adurantine@theburgnews.com

Co-Editor/Creative Director:  
Lawrance Binda  
lbinda@theburgnews.com

### Staff & Contributors

Reporters:  
T.W. Burger  
twburger@embarqmail.com

Pat Carroll  
paddydear@epix.net

Sylvia Grove  
sylvia.grove@hotmail.com

Ruth Hoover-Seitz  
ruthhooverseitz@gmail.com

Stephanie Kalina-Metzger  
stephaniekalinametzger@yahoo.com

Rick Kearns  
rickearns@comcast.net

Tara Leo Auchey  
todaysthehbg@gmail.com

Carol Maravic  
carol.maravic@live.com

M. Diane McCormick  
dmccormick113@aol.com

Lori Myers  
lori@lorimmyers.com

Mike Walsh  
mikewalsh32@hotmail.com

Columnists:  
Cooking: Rosemary Ruggieri Baer  
rrbgu69@aol.com

Cooking: Sara Goulet  
putch@putchandbuckies.com

Local History: Jason Wilson  
jason.wilson@embarqmail.com

Cinema: Kevyn Knox  
kevynknox@thecinematheque.com

Sports & Fitness: Laura Spurgeon  
lspurgeon@aol.com

Outdoors: Kermit Henning  
kghenning@aol.com

Pets: Todd Rubey  
reptilevet@yahoo.com

Pets: Kristen Zellner  
kristenzellner@gmail.com

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# City Hall

## Park & Pay? City Proposes More Meters for Midtown

Lawrance Binda

A few months back, some Midtown businesses suspected something was afoot, as painted marks suddenly appeared near the street curb, strangely spaced at car-length intervals.

Now, their suspicions have been confirmed, as the City Council last month introduced an ordinance that, if passed, would allow the city to install 88 parking meters along the rapidly developing commercial district. Specifically, the ordinance would allow two-hour meters along N. 3rd Street from Verbeke to Harris streets and along Reily Street from Susquehanna to Williams streets.

A public hearing on the issue will be held this month at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St., said Eugenia Smith, chair of the council's public safety committee.

Midtown businesses were generally critical of the proposal, saying that parking meters could staunch an emerging recovery in the long-suffering commercial zone.

"I sympathize with the need to raise revenue," said Eric Papenfuse, owner of Midtown Scholar. "But I don't think that impeding business traffic is the way to go."

Two doors down, Jose Montano



Painted lines, like this one on a curb near 3rd and Reily streets, were an early sign that parking meters were expanding northward in Midtown.

of JM's Thrift & Vintage, agreed, saying that meters could end his growing out-of-town customer base.

"This is a huge mistake," he said. "Why would we tear down what we've been trying to build up?"

Along Reily Street, Ray Diaz, owner of Nonna's Deli Sioso, said that a silver lining may be that meters might encourage Harrisburg Area Community College students to park in the HACC parking lot, instead of taking up street spaces.

Business owners agreed on one thing: the proposal came with no input from the community.

"How this just came out of nowhere is a huge problem," said Papenfuse.

## City Reaps Windfall from Water Utility

In a strange twist, the Harrisburg Authority is coming to the financial rescue of the city, transferring about \$4.3 million into the general fund.

The cash infusion should cover all of the city's general fund deficit, allowing it to continue to make payroll until year-end, as well as pay about \$2.9 million in past-due bills.

The Harrisburg Authority made the transfer after generating a large budget surplus in its water division. These funds do not include money that the city owes as a result of guaranteeing authority bonds for upgrades to the city incinerator, many of which are in default.

## Council Accelerates Kroboth Departure

Two high-ranking holdovers from the Reed administration met very different fates last month.

Mayor Linda Thompson asked the City Council to allow Robert Kroboth, city business administrator/ chief of staff, to stay on until mid-March or until a replacement could be found. The council instead voted to end Kroboth's long tenure early, setting Dec. 31 as his departure date.

Separately, the council endorsed the appointment of Philip Harper as city solicitor until Dec. 31, 2011. Harper has been acting city solicitor for two years and with the solicitor's office for 5½ years.

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## Toy Story for Africa

How one pre-schooler's question led to a movement.

Sylvia Grove



Riley Hebbard, in her backyard, takes a break from toy collection.

Riley Hebbard is a typical 6-year-old. With straight brown hair and dimples, Riley takes gymnastics classes and wants a unicorn Pillow Pet for Christmas. But when asked about her toy project, Riley becomes serious.

"I want to get one toy to

every child in Africa," she said.

Riley's story begins with just such a childhood observation. On Feb. 20, 2009, when Riley was 4½, the Mechanicsburg girl saw a Today Show report on Darfur refugees.

"She said, 'Mom, the kids don't have any toys,'" said her mother, Rhonda. "So I tried to explain the situation that caused the refugees to leave everything they had behind. I also tried to explain poverty."

But Riley was not satisfied. As Rhonda drove her to preschool that morning, Riley asked if she could send her old toys to Africa. Then, Riley asked to put collection boxes in local businesses, such as Silver Spring Diner and Cuppy Coffee & Catering in Mechanicsburg. Next came donations from all over the community and a call from World Vision, an international humanitarian group, which offered to be a partner for shipping. In just 1½ years, Riley's Toy Foundation, a non-profit organization headed

by Riley and organized by Rhonda, has donated more than 15,000 toys to refugee camps in Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"The response has been

incredible," Rhonda said.

There are some critics to Riley's enthusiasm, who point to the obvious fact that much of Africa—in 2010, home to 30 of the 36 countries that received severe debt relief from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank—has greater needs than toys. But Ibrahim Hamidou, a Harrisburg resident who was born and raised in Niger, disagrees.

"As a child, I had nothing: no day care, no gifts, no luxuries," he said. "A child's priority was to find food to eat. After you had a full stomach, you could think about something else."

In Ibrahim's neighborhood, there was often only one child who had one ball to play with, usually procured through parents who worked for whites.

"For the children of Africa, toys are really appreciated," he said. "The society is such that many times, a child does not know his parents. However, when he receives a toy, he knows that someone somewhere is thinking of him. A toy gives a child hope, and any child with hope has more potential to help Africa move towards something better."

Mending a society's morale from the children up is a massive task, but Riley's innocent perspective allowed others to rethink their own. Rhonda said, "One day, when I was explaining to Riley that I hadn't had time to pick up the collection boxes, she asked, 'Mom, what's more important: your errands

or helping African children?' It sobered me. Riley doesn't see the big picture in the way I do, but in some ways she sees it more clearly."

Riley is still a typical 6-year-old. She sings "jingle bells, Batman smells" as Rhonda and I talk, and she accepts my challenge for a swingset race after her interview. But beyond this, Riley has many wishes. First, she wants to travel to Africa when she becomes brave enough to take the immunizations. Secondly, she hopes that other kids and grown-ups donate extra toys over the holidays, because "we should help other children with their lives."

And finally, she hopes to continue helping Africa. "I want Riley's Toy Foundation to go on for a long time," she said. "Maybe until I die, and hopefully even after that, too."

Find more information and donation drop off locations at [www.rileystoys.org](http://www.rileystoys.org). Riley's Toy Foundation, 4902 Carlisle Pike #385, Mechanicsburg, 717-319-0559, [info@rileystoys.org](mailto:info@rileystoys.org)

Sylvia Grove is a freelance writer and part-time writer for Examiner.com.



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## New Bus Route: Harrisburg to DC

Harrisburg area residents soon will have another option for travel to Washington, D.C., as low-cost carrier Megabus is initiating express service.

On Dec. 15, Megabus will begin a Harrisburg/D.C. route. All buses will leave at 10 p.m. from pole 32 at the Harrisburg Mall parking lot. The D.C. stop is located at 10th and H streets NW. Trips back to Harrisburg will leave daily at 10:45 a.m.

Megabus has rates as low as \$1 each way, depending upon demand. The one-way trip will take about 2½ hours. For more information and fares, visit [us.megabus.com](http://us.megabus.com).

# Around Town

## Mixed Bag on Local Crime

State releases report with 2009 data.

TheBurg Staff

Property crime declined significantly in Harrisburg last year, while crime statewide dropped 5.4 percent with violent crimes dropping 4.9 percent, the lowest rate since 2003, reported Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Frank Pawlowski.

According to the agency's annual crimes report, the city, with its population of 47,000, experienced a 11.9 percent drop last year in Part 1 offenses: murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

However, the city's violent crimes increased: total number of murders in 2009 was 16 compared to nine in 2008; number of rapes was 50 compared to 46; assault was 255 compared to 242; and one case of manslaughter compared to none the previous year.

What caused the drop in city crimes was the number of property thefts—burglaries, 474 in 2009 compared to 743 in 2008; larceny theft, 1,513 compared to 1,637; motor vehicle theft, 176 compared to 235; and arson, 31 cases

compared to 25.

Chuck Ardo, spokesman for Mayor Linda Thompson, owed some of the decline to efforts by the Police Bureau's Street Crime Unit, bicycle and foot patrols, and the bureau's emphasis on community policing. "The effort seems to be paying off," Ardo said.

Part 2 offenses, so-called petty crimes ranging from fraud and forgery to prostitution, vandalism, and vagrancy, increased in the city 1.2 percent from 2008.

Ardo said the increases in violent and petty crimes "is part of a troubling national trend that the city is working to address through strategic force deployment."

Statewide, the total number of crimes reported to state police in 2009 was 955,669, compared to the 1,010,703 crimes reported in 2008.

The report is compiled from data submitted monthly by law enforcement agencies across the state, and the numbers are subject to change as agencies update or review the information. The report does not analyze why crime is up or down.

## Pearl Harbor Day

The Naval Support Activity Base in Mechanicsburg will honor Pennsylvania survivors of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor with a ceremony in the East Wing of the state Capitol Rotunda on Tuesday, Dec. 7. The event begins 12:55 p.m., the time that the first bombs fell on the Hawaiian island. For the past 11 years, the Navy base has been working with the state to host this program. Above, Harrisburg-area men gather in Market Square on a cold, rainy day as they await to be mustered into the military during WWII.





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## Around Town

### An Honest Man—or Not?

Film tackles infamous event in Harrisburg history.

Lawrance Binda



Budd Dwyer's son, Rob, daughter, Dyan, and sister, Mary, at Midtown Cinema.

Harrisburg has seen a lot of history, but no day was quite like Jan. 22, 1987, the day that state Treasurer R. Budd Dwyer called a press conference, then, with TV cameras rolling, stuck a gun into his mouth and killed himself in his office.

That event—and the complex story leading up to it—is the subject of a new documentary called "Honest Man," which premiered at Midtown Cinema last month.

The movie attempts to clear Dwyer's name, portraying his bribery conviction as a gross miscarriage of justice.

Whether or not you agree with that assessment, the movie was gripping, made even more fascinating by the presence in the theater of Dwyer's two children, his sister and the filmmaker.

"I first saw a video of the suicide online, but there was no context for it," said Jim Dirschberger, a San Francisco-based moviemaker, describing how his project

began. "I started seeking out information and, being a filmmaker, it ended up as a feature film."

A question-and-answer followed the screening, and what emerged was a picture of a tormented man who believed in his innocence to the end.

"This was a system he truly believed in," said Dwyer's daughter, Dyan. "There was no way this could happen to him, but it did."

In the film, Dirschberger interviews family members, as well as one of the key witnesses in the trial, former Dauphin County Republican Party Chairman Bill Smith, who has provided conflicting statements over the years over whether he offered Dwyer a bribe. In any case, Dwyer never received any money.

Dwyer committed suicide shortly before sentencing, a term that could have reached 55 years in prison.

Family members dismissed any notion that Dwyer killed himself to preserve his sizable state pension for his family or that the suicide was tantamount to an admission of guilt. They said Dwyer was caught in a surreal nightmare and that he hoped his death would lead to reform of a system that permits "political persecution."

"It was like he was given a death sentence, not a conviction," said his sister, Mary. "So, right then, after the trial, he knew what he was going to do."

### Candlelight House Tour: A Holiday Tradition



Christopher and Erica Bryce's recently renovated bed-and-breakfast at 915 N. Front Street is one of 13 stops on this year's Candlelight House Tour, a seasonal tradition now in its 37th year. This year's tour focuses on the grand residences and public properties of historic Midtown, all beautifully decorated for the holidays. The self-guided tour takes place Dec. 12, 1-5 p.m., with a post-tour party at the Harrisburg Civic Club. Tickets are \$18 in advance and \$20 the day of the event at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N. 3rd St. Tickets also may be purchased at [www.historicharrisburg.com](http://www.historicharrisburg.com). Call 717-233-4646 for more information.



## Next Stop: Harrisburg

Rail legacy has helped shape the city.

Jason Wilson



Harrisburg train station, early 1900s.

By the early part of the 19th century, as the “age of steam” emerged, Harrisburg’s selection as Pennsylvania’s state capital made it a logical choice as a center for railroads.

In 1831, the Cumberland Valley Railroad was chartered to make a rail connection from Carlisle to Harrisburg and to haul the resources of that valley to market. Eight years later, the line opened, crossing the first railroad bridge at Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania Railroad was chartered next, in 1846, and began operating between Philadelphia and Harrisburg two years later. During this time, the PRR also began constructing a wooden bridge north of the city near Rockville. In 1856, the Reading Railroad made the connection to Harrisburg from Philadelphia, and, in 1858, the Northern Central connected Baltimore to Sunbury in Northumberland County via the capital city. By 1860, Harrisburg had become a vital rail center, just in time for the Civil War.

As the war approached, the railroads served important roles, bringing new troops to Harrisburg’s Camp Curtin and supplies and material to and from the front. They were a target for attack during both the Antietam and Gettysburg campaigns. Disruption of rail service at Harrisburg would have drastically impacted the north’s ability to supply troops in the field. Fortunately, this did not occur.

The remainder of the 19th

century saw the railroad industry boom in Harrisburg and across the nation, with railroads setting up car repair shops and train yards in the city. In 1902, the Pennsylvania Railroad completed, a few miles north of the city, the Rockville Bridge, which was and remains the longest stone arch railway bridge in the world.

In 1887, PRR built a Queen Anne-style passenger railroad station that stands today as Harrisburg’s Transportation Center. By 1922, more than trains were arriving and departing the station.

In 1905, the PRR built the Enola Yard—one of the largest rail yards in the United States until the 1950s. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, the rail industry was perhaps the most important in Harrisburg.

A 1944 visitors’ guide notes that 11,000 people were employed

by the railroads. Rail traffic and employment decreased as the railroads yielded to other methods of shipping freight, such as trucks and airplanes.

However, despite the fact that rail operations have slowed from their heyday, Harrisburg continues to serve as an important rail junction for freight and passenger trains, just as it has for more than 170 years.



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Oct. 31: Through the haze, zombies emerged to feast on brains at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, following a shuffle through Harrisburg Mall.



Nov. 8: Kicking off Children's Book Week Celebration, Dauphin County librarian Donna Husted read to pre-school and kindergarten students from St. Stephen's School, at downtown's McCormick Riverfront Library.



Nov. 18: The Salvation Army of the Harrisburg Capital Region greeted the holidays with its trademark Christmas Kettle Campaign at the Capitol rotunda.



Nov. 6: Marchers paraded up State Street to commemorate the Harrisburg Grand Review of 1865, which honored U.S. Colored Troops who fought in the Civil War.



Nov. 13: Mantis Collective Gallery owners Andrew Guth and Tara Chickey (here, with a quiet friend) hosted their annual alternative craft fair, the Odd Ones Holiday Bizarre, at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center.



Nov. 20: The marching band and color guard of Bishop McDevitt High School were among the attractions at the annual holiday parade in downtown Harrisburg.



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## First Christmas as a Family

4 more stockings hung at the Martinez home.

Ruth Hoover Seitz

This Christmas, four siblings will have "a forever home" with a Harrisburg family. On Nov. 23, Septima, Summer, Shaun and Saren, ranging from 6 to 11 years, were adopted into the Ronece and Ted Martinez family.

Ever since she was 2, Skye Martinez had asked for brothers and sisters. Her mother, Ronece, knew Skye was lonely, and, over the past four years, she and Ted became foster parents to the four children. Now, the 10-year-old explains why she is glad her parents adopted five children. "We can go more places. We have more fun."

Including Christmas. The Martinez family climbs into their eight-passenger van to cut their own tree. They take a whole weekend to decorate and set up their electric train. Relatives join for a weekend of baking 14 kinds of cookies. The kids exchange names with each child, buying a present for one sibling.

Ronece remembered last year when they were all fussing, "What shall we get Mommy?" The Martinez parents suggested the kids give to a charity instead. Last year, it was Channels Food Rescue. This year, it's Catholic Charities, the agency that fostered their adoptions. It was 8-year-old Shaun's idea "to help other kids like us."

In Pennsylvania in 2010, more than 15,000 children remain in foster care after attempts to reunify with family or find another permanent placement solution failed. Many, like the Martinez children, fit in a "special needs" category.

There is "a giant need for a family to take a sibling group," said Kelly Bolton, director of adoption and foster care at Catholic Charities. "It is crucial to get people willing to be a permanent family."

Until there is permanency—adoption or guardianship—there is a lot of emotional uncertainty for a child.

As an adoptive mother, Ronece "rolls with the punches, recognizing

that her children are always going to be different." She "focuses on what will keep a child happy and healthy. Over time, the children changed from scared to polite, caring children."

This family gives their kids a voice. Family meetings are democratic. At one two years ago, the family decided they wanted a brother. Sunkota was adopted as a 10 month-old. "You're happier when you're involved," Ronece said.

At another meeting, the family agreed to a box with prizes for good behavior. Three days with no timeouts, you get to pick a prize. Favorites: "making dessert with dad," or "having an hour with mom."

Ronece works as intake director of the Disability Rights Network, an advocacy system. As the stay-at-home parent, Ted does dinner and 15 loads of laundry. "I like control," he said. Sunday nights, everyone picks out their outfits for the week and stacks the clothes for each day on a pile, with Monday's choice on top.

"There is a lot of routine and structure," Ronece said. "Without it, things spiral quickly."

Responsibilities are often connected to gifts or talents. Septima is good with animals and helps take care of the 10 pets that range from a dog to a box turtle. Sunkota likes to direct the person driving. He also is a good singer. Saren is a detective and can easily locate keys or Sunkota's pacifier. Shaun is known for his strong muscles and helps with the laundry.

The family gardens so they can eat fresh. One rule: you can eat anything out of the garden without permission. Besides vegetables, there are nectarine and peach trees. This family also has a talent for finding free things to go to. In the summer, they set up a schedule for chores and fun. Enrolling in a Patriot-News competition, they completed 10 activities at home and received free tickets to Hersheypark.

There are agencies that bring

children and families together. Many are affiliates within the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network, or SWAN ([www.adoptPAkids.org](http://www.adoptPAkids.org)). To adopt a special needs child or sibling group, a family receives approval through one of the SWAN affiliates. "Kids need a permanent family; they need their people to help them cope with life," said Angela Klobusicky, the permanency supervisor with NHS of PA-Capital Region.

Becoming a foster parent is a great way to open your heart to giving one of those "special needs kids" a forever home. This



The Martinez bunch: Ted and Ronece with their newly expanded family.

Christmas, four more children have a permanent home. Can you give the same to a waiting child?

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- 12/2: Santanna Family Band
- 12/3: Arthouse Cinema Visual DJ Event
- 12/4: **The Sketties—Wigwam Mansion EP Release**
- 12/5: Stacey Dee (early show)
- 12/6: Bess Rogers w/Lelia Broussard & Jesse Ruben
- 12/10: **Puffer Fish** w/Burston Strike School, Caching Behavior & Brightside
- 12/11: **Pretty Things Peep Show; Pin Up Girl Workshop w/go-go Amy**
- 12/16: Camela Widad Kraemer w/Kevin Neidig & Brandy Lynn Confer
- 12/17: **Mink Stole**
- 12/18: Benefit for Susan Giblin Foundation: Pretenders Tribute Show
- 12/19: Indie Barn Holiday Event
- 12/20: **Post-Punk Xmas Party:** The Glam Gala featuring Drink Up Buttercup, Phantasm & Intense Men
- 12/23: Trans Siberian Orchestra Tribute Band: **Wizards of Winter**
- 12/31: New Years Eve Party w/ Arthouse Cinema
- Every Monday: Karaoke
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## A Locavore's Holiday

Ditch the big box for intimate, neighborhood shops.

Rebecca Mack

Call me a Grinch but the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping is one of my least favorite things.

A crowded mall with hundreds of people vying for the same toy or shirt makes me feel like the burned-out bulb in a tangled strand of Christmas lights.

What I do love is finding unique, quiet places to buy gifts that suit a loved-one's specific personality. Practical gifts are nice, too, and definitely have their place. But the effort put into shopping for a gift that truly speaks to the heart is what makes holiday shopping so special, not to mention bearable. Allow me to share a few unique places to shop, hopefully steering you away from the mall-madness mentality of gift giving, to a more pleasant approach.

In downtown Mechanicsburg, at 215 W. Main St., a small house-turned-candy boutique called Brittle Bark beckons you inside to experience delicious candy, handmade and hand-decorated.

Inside Brittle Bark's unique store, you will find plenty of gifting ideas artfully displayed on shelves in beautiful, hand-decorated gift boxes and bags. One of the hottest-selling items is Poppin' Time: popcorn and

pretzels with classic peanut brittle poured over top then drizzled with dark chocolate. Classic brittles like Nutty Chai, as well as popcorn concoctions like CranMerry are just a few other delectable, ready-made gifts. Unique artisan chocolate confections such as enrobed cookies and chocolate-dipped, handmade candy canes are sure to please the sweets-lover on your list. Personalized gift baskets are also available at this little boutique.

In Linglestown, First Impressions is a gift shop and day spa featuring pampering gifts, aromatherapy and trendy fashion. This artistic shop, at 5943 Linglestown Rd., carries the Bare Minerals line, soy wax candles, teas, holiday décor and more. Gift certificates or specialty baskets are the perfect gift for some after-holiday pampering for wives, moms and girlfriends.

Not too far away, at 149 N. Enola Dr. in Enola, Leaf of Eve is a boutique specializing in tailoring, but has a clothing and gift shop that would suit anyone's style. Designer handbags, clothing from Insight and Whish and fashionable jewelry can be found in the gift area that takes up much of the tailor shop.

of colors and textures with the quality and characteristics only hand-made novelties can transmit. Paintings and photography adorn the walls, many inspired by local landmarks. The shop houses pieces from more than 200 Pennsylvania artists. From embellished-fabric purses to crocheted scarves, from copper-enameled jewelry to molded candles and from hand-blown glass to hand-carved wood, you're sure to find something special for everyone. Hot-selling items from among the shop's abundance include hand-carved wood boxes and figures, made by studio artist Gay Foltz. The gallery, at 321 Walnut St., also has children's items, such as whimsical winter hats and wooden trains.

Owner P.J. Heyman says, "When people come in, you sense them relax; they take time to wander and look and touch."

And that's what holiday shopping should be about!



It gets no more gifty than at The HodgePodgery in Harrisburg and Lancaster, where every item is some mix of beautiful, charming and eccentric.

Relaxing. Wandering. Finding that perfect gift for every person on your list—young, old or yearning for some chocolate.



Rebecca Mack is the mother of four children, a freelance writer and co-owner of New Growth Landscaping. Visit her blog: [www.motheringodschildren.blogspot.com](http://www.motheringodschildren.blogspot.com)

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- Wed., 12/22, 6p



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There are also unique gourmet items, such as dip mixes and Ashers chocolates, which make holiday preparation easy and fun and make great stocking stuffers or teacher gifts.

Finally, in historic Boiling Springs sits a quiet shop known as Village Artisans Gallery. Upon walking into the shop, you are greeted with soft music and an ambiance

Harrisburg has some delightful little gift shops that should be on your radar this holiday season. Here are a few places that stand apart for their unique offerings and intimate, welcoming atmosphere.

**Abrams & Weakley:** Even Fido needs something special under the tree! Check out this friendly, funky pet store, an institution in the Harrisburg area. 3963 N. 6th St.

**Arts at 510:** Grab a gift while you can. This wonderful arts shop will close up after the holiday season. 510 N. 3rd St.

**The Bare Wall:** The Bare Wall, 38 years young, may be the ultimate intimate gift shop. From soaps to pottery to cards to teas—it's all here in a cozy townhouse. 712 Green St.

**Gallery@Second:** Downstairs is a traditional gallery; upstairs is an art shop with great gift ideas. Ask about the gift certificate! 608 N. 2nd St.

**The HodgePodgery:** Dawn and Jessica Rettinger run Harrisburg's-go-to shop for fun, crafty, one-of-a-kind items. 1100 N. 3rd St.

**JM's Thrift & Vintage:** Like a bargain? There are hundreds to be had in this eclectic wonderland in Midtown. 1308 N. 3rd St.

**La Femme Jolie:** For the true jewelry lover, La Femme Jolie combines high style and high craft. 7 N. 3rd St.

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café:** Is there a book-lover on your list? Midtown Scholar has thousands of titles in a spectacular setting. 1302 N. 3rd St.



## A Beacon in Midtown

Shining Light offers bargains, assistance.

Peter Durantine



Connie Hanna, welcoming bargain-hunters to Shining Light Thrift Shop.

For nearly two decades, the Shining Light Thrift Shop has been clothing the poor and disadvantaged. Now celebrating its 18th year, the little Midtown shop has helped approximately 27,000 individuals in that time.

"Some of the people who come here or are referred to us have nothing," said Connie Hanna, founder and board president of the shop, a non-profit clothing ministry, at 1310 N. 3rd St., a couple doors down from Midtown Scholar.

While the shop serves the needy, it also has merchandise for the more fortunate and relies on their purchases—as well as donations—to keep operating.

"We are unique in that we have 17 referral agencies that send us clients, and they in turn receive free clothing," Hanna said. "The shop is open to the public, and we continue to operate by sales to the public."

Men receive \$130 worth of free clothing; women \$160 and children \$80. The ministry also has discount programs for low-income individuals and families.

"Our donors have been very generous to us over our 18 years," Hanna said. "Besides clothing, we sell a variety of items such as original artwork, jewelry, house decor items, CDs, DVDs, books, etc."

Hanna, who retired earlier this year from the state Department of Health after 35 years, was inspired to start the shop after her church had helped a family who lost their home in a fire.

"I felt very good that, if we had a ministry, we could get the merchandise," she said. "I was just concerned with getting the rent each month, and we did, every year."

*Shining Light Thrift Shop, 1310 N. 3rd St., 717-234-2436; Wed.-Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat., 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

## Food & Toy Drive

The Antique Automobile Club of America Museum is teaming up with Carry the Light Ministries to help sponsor a food and toy drive. Last year's drive assisted more than 50 area families.

Through Dec. 19, an antique truck will be parked in the museum's lobby to accept non-perishable food, household items, toiletries and toys. Donations can be made at the AACA Museum, 161 Museum Dr., Hershey, 717-566-7100, and Carry the Light Ministries, 16 Dewalt Dr., Mechanicsburg, 717-691-8200.

## Seasonal Concert

The Keystone Capital Chorus presents "'Tis the Holiday Season," on Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, 2701 N. 3rd St. Tickets: \$12 for adults and \$5 for students. Call 717-695-7527.

## Winter Art Classes

Registration is open for winter art classes, which begin in January, at the Art Association of Harrisburg. Scholarships are available for students with financial needs. For more information, visit [www.artassocofhbg.com](http://www.artassocofhbg.com).

## New Biz: Grand Openings



**Penn Leather:** A master tailor for almost 50 years, Felix Fermin has opened Penn Leather Jackets & Coats Boutique downtown at 315 Market St., Harrisburg. Fermin, along with Lupe, a seamstress for 40 years, offers off-the-rack and custom-made jackets, sports coats, chaps, pants, skirts, vests and more. Open Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. 717-234-1750 or [www.pennleather.com](http://www.pennleather.com).

**Dunes:** Adil Bechat (standing), Radovane Rochdi and Taieb "Ty" Safouan (formerly of La Kasbah on N. 2nd Street) are the owners of the newly opened Dunes, a restaurant of Moroccan Mediterranean fusion cuisine, at 19 S. 3rd St., Harrisburg. Open Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Closed Sunday. Tel. 717-695-0873 or visit [www.harrisburgdunes.com](http://www.harrisburgdunes.com).



**Broad Street Pizza:** Martha Lyn Auguire (left) bakes the pies at the new pizza stand at the back of the brick building at the Broad Street Market. You can pick up a slice with a variety of delicious toppings during the Market's regular hours, Wednesday to Saturday. Owner Mel Fisher (right) also has set up a much-needed seating area for diners of both his pizza stand and his nearby Fisher's Deli. 717-232-1160.

**Yankee Doodle Diner:** Victor Perez, owner of Yankee Doodle Diner (formerly Riverview Diner), and his crew opened their riverside eatery in late October at 902 N. Front St. in Wormleysburg. Perez serves homemade meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Open Sunday to Thursday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 24 hours, Friday and Saturday. 717-731-9100.



**Adiata Fashions Boutique:** Kumba Saho stands in her new shop at 923 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, amid racks of affordable designer clothing. She offers "boutique quality without the boutique price" on trendy casual and dressy items. Be sure to catch her Kwanzaa fashion show, held with her next-door neighbor, Omari's Place, at the State Museum on Dec. 18. Open Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 717-236-2475.



## Mosaica: They're Back

Charter school group re-purchases Moose Lodge building.

Lawrance Binda

A charter school soon may again occupy the landmark Moose Temple lodge in Midtown Harrisburg, as for-profit Mosaica Education has re-purchased four buildings it once owned and that had housed the Ron Brown Charter School at N. 3rd and Boas streets.

New York-based Mosaica, through its real estate arm EFA Co. LLC, finalized the sale on Oct. 5 for \$320,000, purchasing the properties from Statewide Enterprises LLC, a company controlled by Harrisburg developer Philip Dobson. Dobson bought the buildings at a judicial tax sale last spring for a total of \$188,000, including transfer taxes. At the time, he said he was considering

the buildings for office space or for another charter school.

The buildings, at 916–922 N. 3rd St., include the historic Beaux Arts-style Moose Lodge and three much smaller townhouses, together comprising nearly 50,000-square-feet of space and 60 parking spaces.

According to Dauphin County property records, Mosaica/EFA paid \$6.6 million in 2000 for the property group, which takes up an entire square city block. Mosaica also made extensive, expensive renovations to the buildings, including the controversial move of slicing off the backs of the townhouses to make room for an outdoor play area.

Tom Keane, a Mosaica senior vice president, confirmed that the company had purchased the properties, but declined to specify further.

"We are planning something," he said. "When we know something firm, we'll let you know."

Soon after purchasing the buildings in 2000, Mosaica entered into a management agreement with the Ronald H. Brown Charter School, which actually ran the school. Alleging performance, fiscal and operational deficiencies, the school district's Board of Control, which then oversaw Harrisburg schools, refused to renew the Brown School's five-year charter after its expiration in 2005, a ruling later affirmed by the state's Charter School Appeal Board.

The 400-student school closed, and the buildings were foreclosed upon, becoming a vacant eyesore. Unable to find a buyer, the receiving bank allowed the properties to go to tax sale, completing the five-year circle back to Mosaica.



What's old is new again: Mosaica Education has bought back four buildings it once owned that housed the Ronald Brown Charter School.

## Street Near Capitol Finally Re-Opens

After being closed for construction for nearly two years, North Street, between 7th Street and Commonwealth Avenue, has re-opened. The street, though, is now one way off 7th Street. Drivers can no longer turn off Commonwealth Avenue to go east on North Street. Parking along the street is for state employees.

## Changing Hands: October Property Sales

Briggs St., 2017: D. & M. Engstad to H. Ring, \$75,000

Brookwood St., 2633: J. Snively to T. McGarrity Jr., \$115,000

Derry St., 1336: HUD et al to M. Baltozer, \$34,500

Derry St., 1923: P. Morroni to R. Vazquez, \$52,250

Green St., 2039: Integrity Bank to E. & K. Woolever, \$88,200

Hoffman St., 3224: R. & G. Whorley to D. Maiman, \$82,000

Lewis St., 208: HSBC Mortgage Services Inc. to M. Morales, \$43,500

Manada St., 1912: Fannie Mae to KLJ Investment Properties LLC, \$31,000

Meadowlark Pl., 3016: Genex Properties LP to M. Ostroskie, \$47,500

North St., 1713: G. Neff & City Limits Realty to C. Ochoa & S. Roldan, \$40,000

N. 2nd St., 1906: T. Ainsley III to C. Harris, \$140,000

N. 2nd St., 3003: Thomas Holding Group LLC to A. Bangura, \$142,000

N. 2nd St., 3200: R. Devoe to Marmalade Properties, \$95,000

N. 3rd St., 916–922: Statewide Enterprises LLC to EFA Company LLC/Mosaica Education Inc., \$320,000

N. 4th St., 3211: PA Deals LLC to G. Treacy, \$32,400

N. 5th St., 2251: M. Harden to K. Rolston, \$120,000

N. 6th St., 2411: S. & M. Toomey to Nice Property LLC, \$44,500

N. 6th St., 3100: N. Juergens to C. Wood, \$74,900

N. 7th St., 2103: Susquehanna Bank PA to RMP Real Estate II LLC, \$220,000

N. 17th St., 1216: St. Paul's Baptist Church to PA Deals LLC, \$40,000

N. 19th St., 1001: R. & M. Brown to C. Myers, \$34,000

N. Front St., 1401: S. & T. Capricci to H. Miller, \$180,900

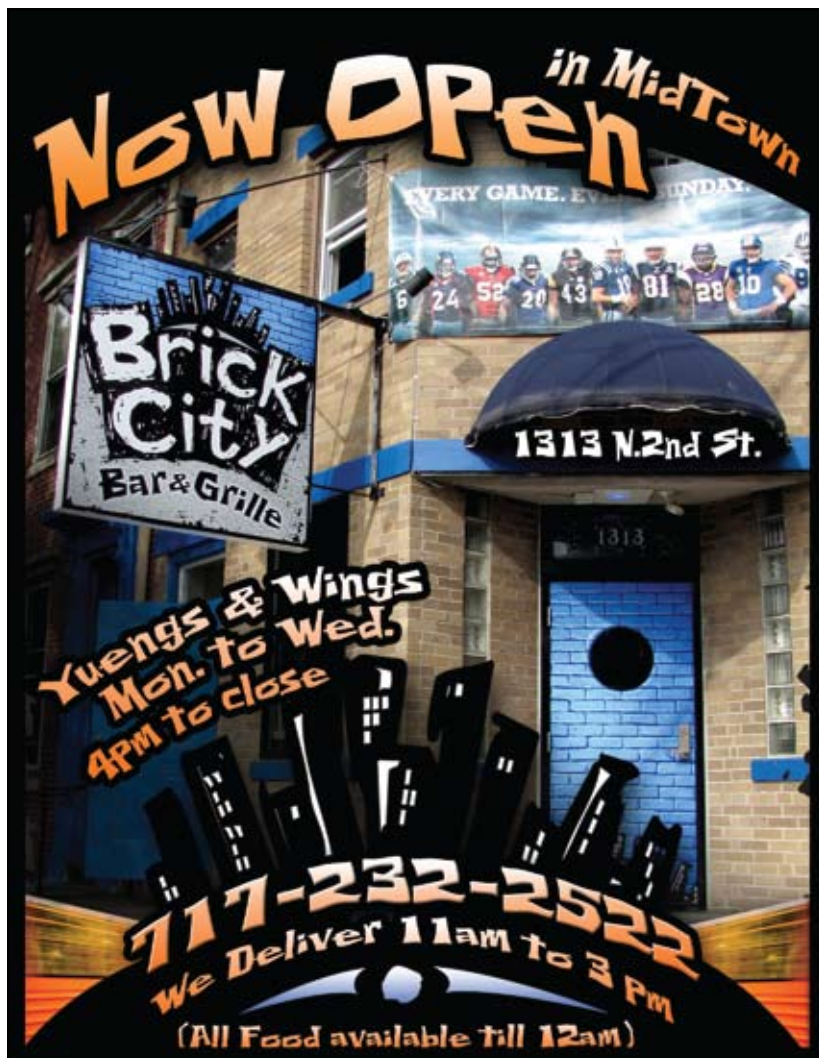
Penn St., 1916: J. Breinich to WCI Partners LP, \$60,000

Penn St., 2224: Riverside Renovations LLC to K. Lawler, \$85,000

Reily St., 213: Steel Investment Trust et al to P. Donahue & P. Chaves, \$98,000

S. 19th St., 255: K. Keyes & J. Vives to J. Aldaz & A. Freire, \$154,900

Source: Dauphin County, City of Harrisburg, property sales greater than \$30,000. Data is deemed to be accurate.





## Development Tool or Giveaway?

Council considers renewing tax abatement program.

Lawrance Binda



Tax abatements have been used to attract new homeowners to the resurgent Olde Uptown neighborhood.

To abate or not to abate? That's a question before Harrisburg right now, as the City Council has begun to consider the complex, sometimes controversial, issue of property tax abatements.

The council's Community and Economic Development Committee last month held a hearing on the city's 30-year-old tax abatement program, which expires at year-end.

The program is currently city-wide, offering property owners as long as 10 years before they have to fully pay taxes on the assessed value of property improvements. Each year, for a decade, qualifying property owners pay taxes on an additional 10 percent of the value of their improvements.

The Thompson administration proposes changing the program to limit its scope to four census tracts in Allison Hill and Uptown Harrisburg, as well as condemned properties and those owned by the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority. The administration's proposal also would accelerate the abatement timetable, so that qualified property owners would be fully taxed on the value of their improvements after just five years.

The city's developer and real estate community strongly opposes the proposed changes, stating that the program has been critical to putting blighted properties back into use and improving city

neighborhoods.

"We think the current program works and that it's worked well," said Brad Jones, vice president of Harristown Development Corp.

Jones prefers an alternative proposed by council member Patty Kim, who wants to extend the existing tax abatement program in its current form until 2015.

The council appears split on which course to take. Council member Susan Brown Wilson has questioned the cost of the current program, asserting that Harrisburg, in the midst of a financial crisis, cannot afford to forego any amount of property tax revenue.

"We need to look at whether we can afford to continue the abatement process for the city as a whole," she said.

Developers have countered that many, if not most, of the 1,400 projects that have benefited by the program never would have been undertaken without the abatement, meaning the city has lost little, if any, revenue. In particular, the program can be linked to the stunning renaissance of Olde Uptown as a

vibrant urban neighborhood, as well as to improvements elsewhere, they said.

"Many projects that have been done wouldn't have been done without it," said Jones.

Kim indicated that the issue needed further study and debate before she would feel comfortable recommending a final ordinance to the full council.

## Habitat for Humanity Builds in Uptown

Seven empty lots in Uptown Harrisburg soon will be livable space again, as Habitat for Humanity has broken ground on three single-family homes.

The City Council last month approved Habitat's development plan, which combines seven lots on the 600-block of Woodbine Street into three building sites.

Construction began almost immediately after council approval, as the three families who will own the homes had already been selected and trained, said Eve Wachhaus of Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area.

## Riverview Manor Group Buys Governor Hotel

The historic Governor Hotel, 335 Market St., was bought last month for \$1.6 million by Riverview Manor Associates, the developer of the Riverview Manor condominium on N. Front Street in Harrisburg.

The seven-story building began life in 1909 as a hotel. It now is a 46-unit apartment building.

Dan Deitchman, a principal with Riverview Manor Associates, confirmed that his firm bought the building from the Governor Hotel Partnership, which has owned it since 1992. Deitchman said that his company was still "evaluating the building" before determining what to do with it.

## State St. Building Given Go-Ahead by City

The Harrisburg City Council has given final approval to a new, five-story office building at State and 2nd streets. The vote clears the way for an April ground-breaking, said David Butcher, president of WCI Partners, the project's developer.

"A Prairie Home Companion" favorite

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# G U I D E



## A Sweet Memory

Zuppa Inglese, through the years.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

My father loved teaching his art students almost as much as he loved painting. And he loved New York City. Several times a year he traveled there, either with my mother or his two Italian buddies, to savor the wonderful food, shop for yet another camera lens and go to the opera (Italian ones, of course). So it was no surprise that every year, my father planned a trip to the city for his art students. My mother and I, and eventually my husband, got to go along.

The routine was pretty much the same year after year. My father loved tradition. There was an early morning bus ride that in those days seemed to last forever. And

the trip was always in April when we prayed for sunshine but most often got a cold, early spring wind. Now, the main goal of the trip was the American Watercolor show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Watercolors were my father's first love, and he delighted in seeing and sharing with his students the finest watercolors in the country.

Many years ago, my mother and father discovered an Italian restaurant in New York called Giambelli's. It was a little place, decorated in the old European style, rather formal and ornate. I always thought it smelled the way an Italian restaurant should: of garlic and olive oil. When my father found a good

place to eat, that was it! Giambelli's soon became not just his favorite restaurant in New York, it became for him the only restaurant in New York! And so, not unexpectedly, our art trip to New York always ended at Giambelli's.

Giambelli's was owned by Mary and Frank Giambelli and, over the years, they and my parents became good friends. So when the April art trip was in the planning stages, my father called Frank to make dinner arrangements and asked him to "do something special for my students."

We were always taken to a small, candle-lit upper room with a half-dozen tables covered in white linen. As soon as we were seated, small squares of homemade pizza appeared, to go with wine and drinks. Dinner began with a wonderful antipasto of cured meats and cheeses and crisp Italian bread. Next was a salad of fresh greens, always with arugula, lightly dressed in oil and vinegar. I always loved the pasta course: delicate tortellini drizzled lightly with both marinara and cream sauces. The entrée followed, usually a meat of some sort, vegetables and potatoes. And although we had already consumed more food than we should have, we always looked forward to dinner's crowning glory, Zuppa Inglese.

I searched for years for a recipe to duplicate this dessert,

only to learn that there are endless variations of this Italian rum cake, and none are exactly like that at Giambelli's. The recipe that follows is an easy one. It is more pudding than cake and resembles the English trifle. The custard will take a little time to make and must be done correctly. But it would be a splendid ending for your Christmas dinner.

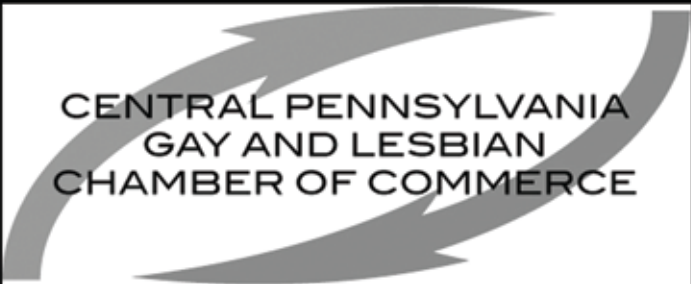
### Zuppa Inglese

- Crush 8 large macaroons (almond macaroons are best) and place in a large glass serving bowl or trifle dish. Sprinkle with 8 tablespoons Marsala or light rum wine and a teaspoon of grated orange peel. (I prefer the rum.)
- Place 2 cups of warm milk, 4 beaten eggs, 3 tablespoons sugar and a teaspoon of vanilla into a double boiler or a bowl set over simmering water. (The simmering water should not touch the bottom of the bowl.)
- Cook the custard gently until it thickens and coats the back of a spoon. Do not let the custard boil or it will curdle.
- Pour the custard into a clean bowl and let cool completely. When cool, pour the custard over the macaroons.
- Beat 2 cups of chilled heavy cream until soft peaks form. Spread the cream over the custard.
- Garnish with toasted slivered almonds or chopped toasted pistachios. Dot the trifle with a few maraschino cherries for color. I hope you enjoy Giambelli's signature dessert.

Buon Natale!



Rosemary Ruggieri Baer, a first generation Italian-American, grew up in Harrisburg and has spent her life perfecting her mother's country cooking.



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## A Slurp of New England

On a cold day, nothing beats warm chowder.

Randy Straub

There's nothing like a bowl of creamy, hearty New England clam chowder on those cold fall and winter days.

The following recipe is a staple at my Midtown restaurant, The Soup Spot, and my favorite, not only because of its simplicity and amazing taste, but also because of the creativity each chef can bring to it. Feel free to add to The Soup Spot's original recipe and cook up your own!

- 2 slices bacon, chopped
- 1/4 cup onion, diced
- 1/8 cup celery, diced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 cups water
- 8 oz. clam juice
- 2 large potatoes, diced
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 6.5 oz. cans of chopped clams
- 2 shakes of Tabasco sauce
- dash of parsley
- 1 tsp. Old Bay
- salt and pepper to taste



Sauté bacon, onions, celery and garlic in butter until bacon is cooked. Add flour to the pan and cook for 1 minute. Add water, clam juice, potatoes, salt and pepper. Boil until potatoes are fully cooked, then add cream and clams. Bring to a boil and season with Tabasco, parsley and Old Bay.

This recipe serves four to six people. Make it a staple of your menu all winter long!



Randy Straub is owner of The Soup Spot, 912 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. 717-232-7687



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## Art Party after the Art Party

Think 3rd in The Burg ends too early? JanGroh steps up.

Peter Durantine

Despite the many galleries in Harrisburg, young artists are unable to show their work as often as they'd like, but this month at 3rd in The Burg on Dec. 17, a group of young Bohemians are putting on a show for new and struggling artists.

"The purpose of the show is to showcase artwork for local artists who can't express themselves," said one of the organizers, Will Ortiz, a muralist, painter and photographer. "This is a way of opening doors for [those] artists."

It's not that galleries won't show their work. It's just that galleries can be expensive and that droves of artists want to show, leading to long

waits before artists can see their works appear.

Where the artists Ortiz, Reina Wooden, J.D. Anwar Khan—known as The JanGroh Collective—thrive, "is pretty much an underground arts scene," Ortiz said.

And so the Collective's "La Cage after Party," featuring DJ Malakh, a Hebrew word which means "messenger," is dedicated to artists who are students, single parents, blue collar workers—artists who can't afford to show their work elsewhere.

Although Wooden noted that it has "become extremely expensive to show your artwork in galleries,"

she said the exhibit's artists are both unknown and renowned, such as Elizabeth Asche Douglas, Ryan Spahr, Natakhi Bhatti and Liz Larabee.

The event will occupy the two floors of the Historic Harrisburg Association Resource Center at 3rd and Verbeke streets, across from the Broad Street Market. JM's Thrift & Vintage will have a room displaying its furniture.

Wooden and her collaborators want to offer a different perspective to the art scene, opting for the large area the Resource Center provides instead of "the standard gallery settings," she said.

"We feel like we bring three different perspectives," said J.D. Anwar, who met Ortiz and Wooden at Café Di Luna, a Midtown coffeehouse. "It's only fitting that the three of us come together on this."

Two models, Wooden being one of them, will stroll around the event showing off early 1980s fashions. Malakh will play Eurotrash electronic music. The artists include

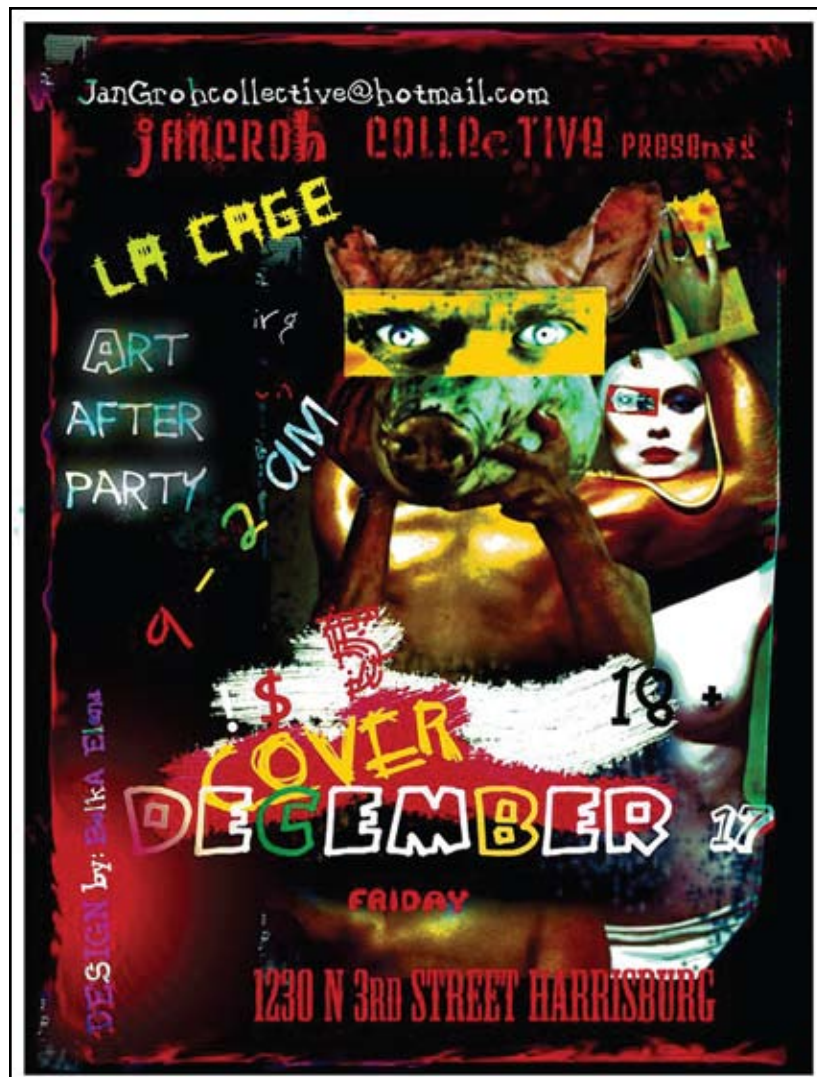


Extended hours: JanGroh members (left to right), J.D. Anwar Khan, Reina Wooden, Will Ortiz and Josh Ari Selvy, emerge from the vault at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, a former bank. Photo: Sean Simmers.

craft artists, sculptors, painters and performance artists, including Josh Ari Selvy, the fourth member of The JanGroh Collective. Think avant-garde, eclectic.

"We're trying to bring a European flavor here," Wooden said of the show. "It's about exposure and education. 'Hey—Look what artists are doing!'"

*La Cage after Party, Dec. 17, 9 p.m., Historic Harrisburg Resource Center, 1230 N. 3rd St.*



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# Harrisburg, under the Tree

This holiday, give the gift of a great local book.

Peter Durantine

## The Blue Orchard

By Jackson Taylor  
Simon & Schuster 416 pp. \$16 (soft cover) \$25 (hardcover)



By now, most people in Harrisburg's literary circles know of Jackson Taylor's based-on-a-true-story novel about an African-American abortion doctor

and his white nurse, who serve the private and political elite of the city in the middle of the 20th century.

While fascinating to read about such historic figures as Harvey Taylor and his political machine and the beneficial relationship they share with the good doctor, there is so much more to this book than the scandal of a society condemning something publicly while condoning it with strong embrace privately.

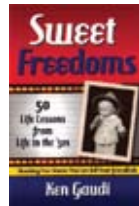
Taylor has masterfully captured the various dimensions of the issues that remain with us today—racism, abortion, class struggle, family dysfunction. And, in his characters, we find the moral ambiguity that falls on us at times as we struggle along in life's journey.

Taylor has a good feel for the city and the period. He weaves the city's history nicely through the life of Verna, his actual grandmother, who rises from an impoverished country background and struggles to hang on to wholesomeness, righteousness and goodness while earning a prosperous living helping perform an illegal medical procedure. Meanwhile, her employer, Dr. Crampton, makes his own compromises and justifications as he uses his position and wealth to serve the city's struggling African-American community.

This book isn't just important to Harrisburg. It's important to anybody in any town anywhere.

## Sweet Freedoms: 50 Life Lessons from Life in the '50s

By Ken Gaudi  
HigherLife Publishing 127 pp. \$12.99



Ken Gaudi grew up in a factory town in western Pennsylvania during an era when fathers worked at stores or factories and mothers worked at home. Life was simple—

dinner was always 5 p.m. and called by your father using a distinctive whistle made by placing two fingers in either side of the mouth and blowing. Life was also routine and slow enough to appreciate the finer points in people, places and things.

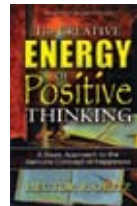
"As I recall, nobody earned a great deal of money, and we, the High Park kids, didn't fully realize that most of the families living in our community were by most standards lower middle-class. But we had food, clothing and shelter. What else did we need?" writes Gaudi, a retired lobbyist who lives in Mechanicsburg.

And Gaudi's lesson from this: "Humble beginnings can be good beginnings (and they are nothing to be ashamed of)."

Gaudi writes with humor of an interesting childhood and many of the lessons we've heard before. But they are still worth hearing again, and, as this early baby boomer notes in Lesson #50: "There are so many life lessons to learn."

## The Creative Energy of Positive Thinking

By Hector R. Ortiz  
Orison Publishers 339 pp. \$20.99



The subtitle to this book is "A Basic Approach to the Genuine Concept of Happiness," which those who see the glass half-full know is an achievable goal. Even for those who

see the glass half-empty, this book, at the least, is thought-provoking.

Hector Ortiz, president of H&R Communication & Consulting Services and a community liaison and contract manager with Dauphin County's Office of Human Services, provides more than just something inspirational in this book.

He takes a therapeutic approach and infuses it with faith to teach not only how to think positively, but how to maintain that mindset through hard times. "Even in difficult times, the hope that positive thinking brings, balanced by an optimistic emotional approach and confident spiritual trust, should persuade you that 'everything that happens to you has a spiritual significance,'" Ortiz writes.

Ortiz offers self-help, but with compassion. "...[R]especting and knowing yourself," he writes, "are fundamental virtues if you want to embrace affirmative and creative thinking."

## Greater Harrisburg's Jewish Community

By Simon J. Bronner  
Arcadia Publishing 128 pp. \$21.99



Arcadia Publishing has made a niche market of local histories told through photographs with extended captions. Its books seem to cover every town—big


and small—neighborhood and community in these United States. There are at least two books on Harrisburg.

Now Arcadia gives us the city's Jewish community, written by American folklorist and historian Simon Bronner of Penn State's Harrisburg campus. The book is chock-full of photographs depicting the rich and varied history of Harrisburg's Jewish community, its influence on society and its contributions in shaping the city.

"Harrisburg's Jews have acquired, on average, more affluence than those in comparable cities and used it to support external Jewish causes and construct a local institutional infrastructure that appears created for a larger community," Bronner writes, noting the Jewish Community Center, "took on a special role in this capital river city as a unifying, energizing force for building community and social tolerance."

Readers will find an interesting peek into this community's past.

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# Happenings

## Museums & Art Spaces

### 3rd Street Studio

1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-385-3315; [www.3rdstreetstudio.org](http://www.3rdstreetstudio.org)

This month, the gallery features an eclectic mix of paintings, fiber and clay.

### Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100; [www.aacamuseum.org](http://www.aacamuseum.org)

"From Roads to Rails," a custom train display, through Jan. 2.

"Ash & Maple Marvels, Wood-Bodied Cars 1910–1953," through Jan. 31.

"Two-Wheeled Treasures from the Dennis Carpenter Collection," motorcycles from the 1930s to the 1970s, through May.

"Stainless Steel, 1967 Lincoln Continental Convertible," through September.

### Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; [www.artassocofhbg.com](http://www.artassocofhbg.com)

Invitational exhibit, featuring artists Barbara Dombach, Richard Hamwi, Michael C. Layser and Nicky Schleider, through Jan. 6. Reception: Dec. 3, 5–8 p.m.

### Arthouse Lounge

217 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-2550; [www.arthouselounge.com](http://www.arthouselounge.com)

Photography by Jeff Wiles, through Dec. 31.

### Arts at 510

510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-724-0364; [www.artsat510.com](http://www.artsat510.com)

Oil paintings by Jena Campbell, through December. Reception: Dec. 17, 5:10–8 p.m.

### Café di Luna

1004 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-695-9449; [cafediluna.com](http://cafediluna.com)

Art by Stephen C. Shaw, through December.

### Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
[www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com](http://www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com)

December artist of the month: Brian Forestone, photography.

### Gallerie Thirteen

13 E. Main St., Mechanicsburg  
717-591-6940; [www.gallerie13.com](http://www.gallerie13.com)

December artists: Eric Olsen and a "Miniature Art" group show.

### Gallery@Second

608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
[galleryatsecond.com](http://galleryatsecond.com)

Featured works by Barbara Passeri-Warfel and Judith Sen, through Dec. 11.

Artwork of Edward E. Jonason and Robert Reynolds, Dec. 16–Jan. 29. Reception: Dec. 17, 6–9 p.m.

### Gallery at Walnut Place

413 Walnut St., Harrisburg/717-233-0487

"Visual Illusions," through December. Reception: Dec. 17, 5–8 p.m.

### Gallery Blu

1633 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-234-3009; [www.galleryblu.org](http://www.galleryblu.org)

"I Hear What You're Seeing: Artists and Their Music," through January. Artist Dee Jenkins discusses her work: Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m.

"Second Annual Cathedral School Student Art Benefit Exhibit," Dec. 19, 1:30 p.m. Art by students from the Cathedral School; music by Jay Risser, Candace Wanner and The Cathedral School Choir.

### Garden Fresh Market & Deli

1300 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-994-8552

Works by John Davis.

### Harrisburg 2010 History Center

Dauphin Deposit Bank Building, Harrisburg  
210 Market St.; [dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org)

United States Colored Troops and the Harrisburg Grand Review, through Dec. 11.

### Harsco Science Center

Whitaker Center, 222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org)

"Holiday Trains and Trees," through Jan. 2.

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; [www.harrisburgarts.com](http://www.harrisburgarts.com)

Works by various local and regional artists.

### Mangia Qui/Suba

272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; [www.mangiaqui.com](http://www.mangiaqui.com)

Paintings by Elide Hower & Joanne Landis.

### The Mantis Collective

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
[themantiscollective@yahoo.com](mailto:themantiscollective@yahoo.com)

Paintings by Tara Chickey, through Dec. 12

Drawings and paintings by Susan Lowe, Dec. 17–Jan. 16.

### Midtown Cinema

250 Reilly St., Harrisburg  
[www.midtowncinema.com](http://www.midtowncinema.com)

Artwork by Anna Novak.

### Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; [www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)

"Communion," paintings by Keith Pomeroy, through Jan. 16. Reception, Dec. 17, 7–9 p.m.

### National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir, Harrisburg  
717-260-1861; [nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://nationalcivilwarmuseum.org)

"War on the Homefront," through March 13.

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; [www.nedsmithcenter.org](http://www.nedsmithcenter.org)

"Moments in Time," art using natural elements by Andy Goldsworthy, through Dec. 31.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
[www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter](http://www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter)

"Student Honors Photography Show." Opening reception: Dec. 9, 5–7:30 p.m.

### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg  
717-787-4980; [www.statemuseumpa.org](http://www.statemuseumpa.org)

"Voices of the Revolution," an exhibit commemorating the Civil Rights movement, featuring the woodcut art of Edith Jaffy Kaplan, accompanied by poetry written by and about young people, along with important historical quotes and notes.

"Wood on Glass: The Lumber Industry Photographs of William T. Clarke," the story of lumbering and its vast transformation of northern Pennsylvania circa 1900, through May 1.

### Susquehanna Art Museum

301 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-233-8668; [www.sqart.org](http://www.sqart.org)

"People, Places and Things: A Celebration of Harrisburg's Artistic Heritage," through Jan. 2.

Dōshi Gallery: Ceramic sculpture by Shalya Marsh, through Dec. 5; Open Group Exhibition, Dec. 10–Jan. 23.

## The Stage Door

### Allenberry Resort Inn and Playhouse

1559 Boiling Springs Rd., Boiling Springs  
717-258-3211; [allenberry.com](http://allenberry.com)

"Allenberry Christmas Show," through Dec. 23

### Fishing Creek Playhouse & Dinner Theatre

450 Fishing Creek Rd., Etters  
877-998-7469; [fishingcreekplayhouse.com](http://fishingcreekplayhouse.com)

"A Star Barn Christmas," through Dec. 19

### Harrisburg Comedy Zone

110 Limekiln Rd., New Cumberland  
717-920-3627; [harrisburgcomedyzone.com](http://harrisburgcomedyzone.com)

Mike Stanley, Dec. 3–4

James Sibley, Dec. 10–11

Ward Anderson, Dec. 17–18

Paul Hooper & Jose Sarduy, Dec. 31

### Harrisburg Shakespeare Festival

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; [www.gamutplays.org](http://www.gamutplays.org)

No shows scheduled for December.

### Hershey Area Playhouse

Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive, Hershey  
717-838-8164; [hersheyareaplayhouse.com](http://hersheyareaplayhouse.com)

"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!" Dec. 2–12

### Hershey Theatre

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey  
717-534-3405; [www.hersheytheatre.com](http://www.hersheytheatre.com)

"The Nutcracker" (Youth Ballet), Dec. 18–19

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; [www.harrisburgarts.com](http://www.harrisburgarts.com)

Pretty Little Things Peep Show, Dec. 11

### Open Stage of Harrisburg

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com)

"Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol," Dec. 2–5

Casting Call: "August: Osage County," 6 p.m., Dec. 6 and Dec. 7, for April–May production

Casting Call: "The Diary of Anne Frank," 6 p.m., Dec. 13 and Dec. 14, for March production

### Oyster Mill Playhouse

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill  
717-737-6768; [www.oystermill.com](http://www.oystermill.com)

No shows scheduled for December.

### Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; [www.gamutplays.org](http://www.gamutplays.org)

"Santa Claus Is Coming to Town," Dec. 1–23

### Theatre Harrisburg

Whitaker Center, Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.theatreharrisburg.com](http://www.theatreharrisburg.com)

No shows scheduled for December.

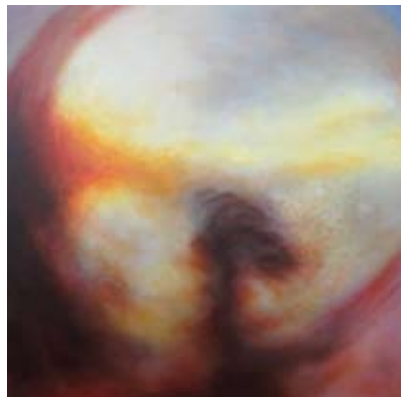
### Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; [www.whitakercenter.org](http://www.whitakercenter.org)

"The Nutcracker" (Youth Ballet), Dec. 11–12

## 3rd in The Burg: Dec. 17

"Ascend," an oil on canvas by Jena Campbell, is among the featured paintings this month at the final exhibit at Arts at 510, which closes at the end of this month at 510 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. Come see Jena's works and, while there, express your thanks to gallery owner Susan Schreckengaust for more than four years of hosting wonderful artists in her great shop. You can visit many other galleries, restaurants and venues on Friday, Dec. 17 for 3rd in The Burg, the monthly event featuring art, music and more at venues around Harrisburg. For more information, see our back cover or visit [www.3rdinTheBurg.com](http://www.3rdinTheBurg.com).





## Live Music around Harrisburg

### Appalachian Brewing Co./Abbey Bar

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

Dec. 3: Jah Works  
Dec. 4: Start Making Sense  
Dec. 10: Steep Canyon Rangers, Colebrook Rd.  
Dec. 11: A Very Herbie Christmas  
Dec. 17: Splintered Sunlight  
Dec. 29: Hoots & Hellmouth

### Café di Luna

1004 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-695-9449; cafediluna.com

Dec. 3: Andrew Bellanca

### Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

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

Dec. 1, 22: Andrew Bargh  
Dec. 2, 16: Anthony Haubert  
Dec. 4, 18, 30: Noel Gevers  
Dec. 8, 29: Chelsea Caroline  
Dec. 9, 10, 17, 23: Giovanni Traino  
Dec. 11, 31: Ted Ansel  
Dec. 15: Mark Zangrilli

### Ceolta's Irish Pub

310 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-3202; www.ceoltasirishpub.com

Dec. 3: Red Letter Morning  
Dec. 4: Good-bye Horses  
Dec. 17: Driving Vegas  
Dec. 18: Natural 9  
Dec. 31: Kenton Shelly Band

### Char's Bella Mundo

540 Race St., Harrisburg  
717-213-4002; www.charsbellamundo.com

"Jazz Wednesdays," with special wine menu

### Clover Lane Coffeehouse

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg  
717-564-4761; www.harrisburguu.org

Dec. 17: Ronnie Waters Jazz Quartet

### Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market Street, Camp Hill  
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Dec. 3: Antonio Andrado  
Dec. 4: Journalists Creegsa  
Dec. 5: Mitch and Lee  
Dec. 11: Hemlock Hollow  
Dec. 12: Andrew Bellanca and Friend  
Dec. 17: Chelsea Bowman  
Dec. 18: Ruby and the Hummingbirds  
Dec. 19: Aaron Daniel Gaul

### Cygnat Studios/Conewago Coffeehouse

336 S. Market St., Elizabethtown  
717-367-6140; conewagocoffee.com

Dec. 3: Caroling at Conewago  
Dec. 10: Etown College Piano Recital  
Dec. 11: Sarah & Lizzie

### Dragonfly Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
dragonflyclub.com

Dec. 2: Beer Gut & Black Lung  
Dec. 3: Have Nots, Knuckleduster and others  
Dec. 11: Eddie Spaghetti and others  
Dec. 18: Flatfoot 56 and others

### H. Ric Luhrs Performing Arts Center

Shippensburg University, Shippensburg  
717-477-SHOW; www.luhrscenter.com

Dec. 2: Jim Brickman's Holiday Concert  
Dec. 12: "The Sound of Christmas" featuring  
The Empire Brass and Elizabeth von Trapp  
Dec. 19: The Irish Tenors: Reunion Christmas

### Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

The Forum (5th and Walnut Sts.), Harrisburg  
717-545-5527; harrisburgsymphony.org

Dec. 12: Holiday Spectacular

### Hershey Theatre

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

Dec. 10: Hershey Symphony Orchestra's  
Holiday Spectacular  
Dec. 11: Ten Tenors  
Dec. 12: Hershey Community Chorus: "Sing  
We Now of Christmas"  
Dec. 22-23: "Handels Messiah Rocks"

### Hilton Harrisburg and Towers

1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg

Tues.-Sat.: Solo jazz piano in the bar

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

Dec. 2: Santanna Trifecta  
Dec. 3: Arthouse Cinema Visual DJ Event  
Dec. 4: The Sketties  
Dec. 5: Stacey Dee  
Dec. 6: Bess Rogers w/Lelia Broussard & Jesse  
Ruben  
Dec. 10: Puffer Fish w/Burstong Strike School,  
Caching Behavior & Brightside  
Dec. 16: Camela Widad Kraemer, Kevin Neidig  
& Brandy Lynn Confer  
Dec. 17: Mink Stole  
Dec. 18: The Pretenders Tribute Show  
Dec. 19: Indie Barn Holiday Event  
Dec. 20: The Glam Gala featuring Drink Up  
Buttercup, Phantasm & Intense Men  
Dec. 23: The Wizards of Winter  
Dec. 31: New Years Eve w/Arthouse Cinema  
Every Wednesday: Open Mic Night

### Hollywood Casino at Penn National

777 Hollywood Blvd., Grantville  
877-565-2112; www.hcpn.com

Dec. 3: The Don Johnson Project  
Dec. 4: John King's Dance Band  
Dec. 10: Full Tilt  
Dec. 11: The Blues Brotherhood & SM2  
Dec. 17: The Smokin Gunnz  
Dec. 18: The B Street Band & Restless  
Dec. 25: Luv Gods  
Dec. 31: Pentagon & Uptown

### Mangia Qui/Suba

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

Dec. 3: Via Motive  
Dec. 4: Jeff Calvin and The Converse All Stars  
Dec. 10: Nate Myers  
Dec. 11: Batida!  
Dec. 17: Phipps and Phriends  
Dec. 18: Kyle Morgan and The Back Road  
Dec. 31: DJ Geoffro

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Dec. 15, 17: Holiday-themed music  
Dec. 18, 22: Seasons  
Dec. 18: D&M

### Morgan's Place

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-234-8103; www.morgans-place.com

Please contact the venue.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

Dec. 3: Turtle Island Quartet

### Stock's on 2nd

211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-6699; www.stocksonsecond.com

Dec. 4: Don Johnson Project Band  
Dec. 11: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher  
Dec. 18: Cruise Control  
Dec. 31: Funktion

### The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

www.sfmfolk.org (check website for location)

Dec. 5: Greg Brown w/Garnet Rogers  
Dec. 12: Annual Holiday Jam

### TuesdayBluesday

Der Maennerchor, 221 North St., Harrisburg  
www.tuesdaybluesday.com

Dec. 3: Mina Agossi w/Lya Isoke & Jeff Stabley  
Dec. 7: St. Dominic's Preview w/Chris Purcell  
Dec. 14: The Greatest Funeral Ever  
Dec. 21: Jonathan Ragonese  
Dec. 28: Alex Benjamin Smith

### Whitaker Center

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

Dec. 16: A Rockapella Holiday  
Dec. 19: "Holiday Cheer!" (Choral Society)

## Readings, Classes, Etc.

### Café di Luna

1004 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-695-9449; cafediluna.com

Dec. 17: Book signing by Peter Durantine,  
author of "The Chocolate Assassin," 5:30 p.m.  
Every Tuesday: Mocha Poets

### The HodgePodgery

1100 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-0150; www.thehodgepodgery.com

Dec. 2: Granny Square Crochet, 6 p.m.  
Dec. 4: Ornament Make and Take, noon  
Dec. 8: Decorative Holiday Painting, 6 p.m.  
Dec. 9: Close to the Heart Charm Class, 6 p.m.  
Dec. 17: Psychic readings (3rd in The Burg)

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Dec. 12: Book talk and signing by Mike  
Silvestri, author of "The Gospel of Matthias  
Kent," 7 p.m.

## Holiday Highlights

**Dec. 4, 5 & 11: Advent Program.** The Alumni Chorale of Lebanon Valley College presents "Come and See," a celebration of the birth of Christ. Concert music includes traditional and modern carols, sacred music and spirituals. A portion of the proceeds support Help Ministries of Harrisburg. Performances are 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4, at Palm Lutheran Church, 11 W. Cherry St., Palmyra; 3 p.m., Dec. 5, at Market Square Presbyterian Church, 20 S. 2nd St., Harrisburg; and 8 p.m., Dec. 11 at St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church, 1300 Bridge St., New Cumberland. For tickets, contact J. Gargiulo, 717-763-9437. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$5 for students with ID. www.lvcalumnnichorale.org

**Dec. 5: Jingle Bell Bazaar.** Finish your shopping with this event that features wonderful area vendors in a fundraiser that benefits Drug Free Pennsylvania. 1-4 p.m. Spring Garden Conference Center, 901 Spring Garden Drive, Middletown. 717-232-0300

**Dec. 7 & 10: Gingerbread Friends.** Hear stories about gingerbread friends and cookies, then decorate your own gingerbread friend. Ages 3-8; registration required. Alexander Family Library, 200 W. 2nd St., Hummelstown, Dec. 7, 6 p.m.; and Olewine Library, 2410 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, Dec. 10, 1 p.m. Go to dcls.org or call 566-0949 (for Hummelstown) or 232-7286 (for Harrisburg).

**Dec. 7: "Home for the Holidays."** The Eaken Piano Trio returns for the 21st year on behalf of Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area. Concert at 7 p.m., Dec. 7, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 N. Front St., Harrisburg. There is no charge to attend the performance, but at-will donations will be accepted at the door. A \$20 per-seat donation to Habitat for Humanity reserves a seat in advance. Call 717-545-7299.

**Dec. 17-19: "A Candlelight Christmas."** The Susquehanna Chorale presents songs and stories of Christmases past. Lois Harris' artistic readings of seasonal poems and stories will be interwoven with carols and songs. The concert will conclude with Malcolm Sargent's rich and tender arrangement of "Silent Night," sung by candlelight in the round. To order tickets, visit www.messiah.edu/sc or call 717-691-6036 or 717-533-7859; for information, visit www.susquehannachorale.org.

## At the Cinema

### Moviate Film Co-Op

1106 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
www.moviate.org

Dec. 1: "The Green Room" by Francois Truffaut, 8 p.m.  
Dec. 8: "Whispers from Space," a documentary by Ralph Coon, 8 p.m.  
Dec. 17: A star of John Waters' movies, Mink Stole, and her band, 8 p.m. (at Stage on Herr)  
Dec. 18: "8th Annual Holly Jolly Film Shorts Part 1," 8 p.m.  
Dec. 22: "8th Annual Holly Jolly Film Shorts Part 2," 8 p.m.



## Not-So-Silent Reading

Out Loud Lit, in fine voice at Gallerie Thirteen.

Lori Myers



Say it loud: Ally Bishop reads some Out Loud Lit at Gallerie Thirteen.

Well-written words are powerful stuff for Ally Bishop, and a good story—that mix of character, plot and setting—deserves more than staying hidden on a computer's hard drive or between the covers of a book.

That's why Bishop created Out Loud Lit, where the written word becomes spoken word as authors, essayists and playwrights read their creative works in dramatic fashion in front of a live audience inside a "literally" artsy space.

"My goal is to help writers see another side to their art," said Bishop, who lives in Mechanicsburg. "Too often, our work gets set in ink, and we never see the looks on a reader's face when they grin, flinch or cry as they read our words. Being able to connect that way and see the immediate reaction of our audience is powerful inspiration."

Bishop got her inspiration after attending student residencies at Wilkes University in Wilkes Barre, where she heard published authors read their work with the pizzazz of theater professionals. Bishop also has a 13-year-old stepson who loves having her read him stories because of the "voices" she does for all the different characters. Bishop knew

there were plenty of open mic nights and poetry slams around Harrisburg, where song-writers

sang and poets recited, and felt that fiction and nonfiction could and should be heard.

"I realized we offer the one thing we take for granted: passion," Bishop said. "We love our work and know how it should sound."

The idea started to take shape, and Bishop knew she wanted to prove to others that literary presentations didn't have to be dry, boring or high-brow. She went on a search for a space to showcase these literary readings and stopped by Gallerie Thirteen in Mechanicsburg. The gallery represents more than 40 local, regional and nationally known artists. Bishop loved the energy of the place and the small-town-art-gallery feel. Gallery director Mary Beth Brath liked Bishop's idea of using the gallery for another creative-type "exhibit," and immediately offered the space.

"The building is quite old and has plenty of character, including beautiful tin ceilings and large pillars going down the center of the gallery," Brath said. "When the literary crowd enters the gallery, they are totally surrounded by creativity. The coming together of two major forms of art creates a dynamic cultural experience."

This past summer, Out Loud Lit's first readings nearly filled the seats. The second event, Bishop said, filled the seats ... twice. People stood, sat

on the floor or perched on counters.

"The readers were amazing," she said. "By the end of the night, I knew it was a success."

On Dec. 11, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Out Loud Lit will present "Out Loud Lit: Tinsel Tales and Other Holiday Musings" at Gallerie Thirteen. Weary shoppers who need a literary lift can stop by (at no cost), take a seat and enjoy some literary performances with a holiday theme.

Don't expect traditional tales. Instead, audience members will hear fiction, nonfiction and poetry as the writer intended it to be interpreted. Each reading lasts no more than 10 minutes, so listeners will be treated to a smorgasbord of original work. The gallery also will offer mini-art for sale, including gift items, and the Mechanicsburg Mystery Book Shop will have books and gift baskets for sale. A harpist and other live music, plus refreshments, will add to the unique ambience.

"The average Joe is a bit intimidated to attend other literary readings, but we've had a guy who read about little league, another guy reading sci-fi and a woman reading a young adult novel," Bishop said. "We offer anything from plays to thrillers to poetry. Anyone can come to this and hear something they enjoy."

Gallerie Thirteen, 13 E. Main St. Mechanicsburg, 717-591-6940, [www.gallerie13.com](http://www.gallerie13.com).

### CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION THEN AND NOW



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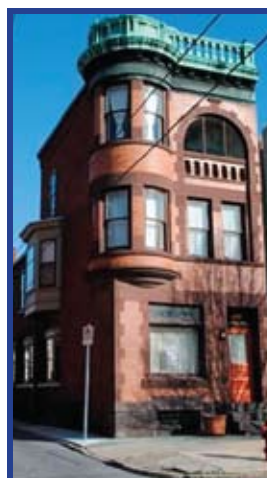
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## Quarter Century for String Quartet

At age 25, Turtle Island powers it up.

Jess Hayden

The two-time Grammy-Award winning Turtle Island Quartet has been at the forefront of classical crossover music since the group's beginnings in the 1980s. David Balakrishnan, Turtle Island's founder and first violinist grew up playing classical music, but later switched over to rock, jazz and American fiddle music.

"Turtle Island becomes my own personal way of finding a format to bring together all these styles that I studied and loved," he said.

The group has spent the last 25 years exploring the possibilities the string quartet medium has outside its traditional repertoire. Along the way, Turtle Island has covered an ever-widening swath of genres including folk, bluegrass, swing, bebop, funk, R&B, new age, rock, hip-hop and Latin.

On Turtle Island's most recent recording, "Have You Ever Been...?" they tackle works by pioneering electric guitarist and '60s icon Jimi Hendrix. Balakrishnan got the idea of exploring Hendrix's music at the Woodstock Museum in New York.

"I saw this film of Jimi Hendrix

playing at the Woodstock Festival," he said, "and there was this one moment where I saw him look at the camera, and in my mind I could tell that he made this kind of decision because he just went completely wild with the most intense guitar playing I have ever heard."

Balakrishnan remembers going home and listening to Hendrix's "Electric Ladyland" for three days straight. In the complex layers of Hendrix's compositions, Balakrishnan heard an American genius that rivaled even the best European composers. "I just knew this would be the perfect music for Turtle Island," he said.

The three other members of the Turtle Island Quartet are Mark Summer on cello, Mads Tolling on violin and Jeremy Kittel on viola. Summer is a founding member of Turtle Island and is widely regarded, thanks to his percussion and pizzicato techniques, as one of the most influential alternative music cellists of his era. Tolling is a Danish violinist who has won multiple awards for musical excellence, and Kittel, the group's newest member, is a U.S. National Scottish Fiddle

champion. All four are classically trained musicians, but also adept at improvising and playing alternative styles.

When Turtle Island performs this month at the Rose Lehrman Theater, in celebration of the quartet's silver anniversary, they will be joined by two acclaimed artists selected for their distinctive role in American music: jazz piano master Cyrus Chestnut and virtuoso mandolinist Mike Marshall. The addition of these soloists opens up the quartet to explore even more possibilities.

"Cyrus is just the most down-to-earth, soulful, gutsy jazz piano player, and Mike is this fiery, maniac mandolin player," said Balakrishnan.

Classic jazz, Americana and new works will highlight this extraordinary evening.

*Turtle Island Quartet performs 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 3, at Rose Lehrman Theater, Harrisburg Community College, 1 HAAC Drive, [www.hacc.edu/RLAC/index.cfm](http://www.hacc.edu/RLAC/index.cfm).*

*Jessica D. Hayden is executive director of the Susquehanna Folk Music Society. Contact her at [concerts@sfmsfolk.org](mailto:concerts@sfmsfolk.org) or [www.sfmsfolk.org](http://www.sfmsfolk.org).*



The Turtle Island String Quartet.

## Winter Theater Classes

Registration now is open for Open Stage of Harrisburg's winter acting classes, which begin in January. The classes for children and adults teach skill, knowledge and appreciation of the process of acting and the making of theater. For more information, visit [www.openstagehbg.com](http://www.openstagehbg.com).

Gamut Theatre Group also starts its winter program in January, offering classes for children and teens. Theatrical concepts, communication skills and the development of a student's self-confidence will be taught. Call Gamut at 717-238-4111.

### Book Signing!

Join Cafe di Luna for a coffee & chocolate pairing and tasting to celebrate the release of Peter Durantine's novel, "The Chocolate Assassin." A book signing by the author will top off the evening. Dec. 17, 5:30-8:30p.



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(717) 234-2225 or [lori.musser@wcipartners.com](mailto:lori.musser@wcipartners.com)



## That '70s Christmas

Italian desserts, ping-pong and a silver tree.

Sara Goulet

We still decorate a real tree each Christmas, but we bought a small, kitschy silver tree five years ago. It fits with our contemporary-style home and the retro look we like.

Each Thanksgiving, when we pull the silver tree out of its box and set it up, I'm reminded of the aluminum tree that my family (and many others) had in the 1960s and 1970s. It had a rotating color wheel light that cast a festive holiday glow around our small living room.

When we woke up Christmas morning, we'd see the disco-like light before we'd see the multitude of presents under the tree. My dad loved Christmas, and I'm certain my parents went into some debt each year to make sure my brother, sister and I had a lot of gifts to open. But first, we were required to kneel at the small crèche set and say prayers to the baby Jesus. We'd fidget and giggle our way through a few minutes before my mom said it was OK to be finished.

After presents, we dressed in our holiday finery and walked up the street to Christmas Mass.

Then it was back to our house for the centerpiece of the holiday celebration—food. My mom, daughter of Italian immigrants, was all about the food. She'd put on her holiday apron and get to work creating traditional holiday dishes and Italian desserts. I can still taste the *clama*, a pudding-based dish with a strong whiskey flavor. I never liked it but tried it every year because the lure of a grown-up dessert was too much to resist.

My mom also made pizzelles, chocolate and vanilla pinwheels, salted peanut cookies and sand tarts. Hers were so paper-thin that you could almost see through them. My sister and I helped by brushing on beaten egg whites and placing one pecan half in the center of each cookie before they were baked.

After dinner, we went to my cousins' house two blocks away. They had a rec room, and that was just so cool. The grown-ups gathered around the bar, and we kids played ping-pong, danced and acted up until we walked back home, tired and really happy.

I hope when my kids are grown



Have yourself a groovy little Christmas: Sara's little silver tree.

up that they will have as many happy Christmas memories as I do. My husband and I keep the traditions going, both old (sand tarts and other delicious desserts) and new (a neighborhood tree lighting at our house, Christmas morning breakfast at The Hotel Hershey).

And though we miss the family members who have gone before us, we look forward to reminiscing each year as we set up the trees, decorate and, of course, eat. This year, I'm even thinking about getting on eBay to find one of those color wheel lights for the silver tree.

## William Penn to Shut

Historic William Penn School, on the chopping block for a year, is now slated to close for the 2011–12 school year.

The city's school board last month voted to shutter the school and end most vocational programs housed there as part of a broader cost-cutting package. Those cuts also will slash about 15 administrative positions in the district, but will preserve sports programs for the time being.

## Annual Open House

The Governor's Residence, 2035 N. Front St., will be open this month so the public can view holiday decorations and enjoy entertainment and refreshments.

The Candlelight Open House is 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 5; the Holiday Open House is 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 12; and holiday tours are from noon to 2 p.m., Dec. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

Reservations are not required for the holiday open houses or tours. For more information, call 772-9130.

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## Lyme Time

Best offense—a prevent defense.

Dr. Todd Rubey

I am frequently asked about specific diseases and how they affect both pets and families. The most common topic is Lyme disease.

Lyme disease is a bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, which is transmitted through the bite of a tick. The disease was first recognized in Lyme, Conn., in the mid-1970s in humans. The disease has been found in 49 states nationally, but its highest concentration is here in the northeast.

The tick that transmits Lyme here in Pennsylvania is the deer tick. Not all ticks transmit Lyme disease. The dog tick, the most common tick, does not transmit Lyme disease, but does transmit numerous other diseases.

The symptoms of Lyme are different in dogs than in humans. People often will develop a circular rash at the site of the bite, then develop flu-like symptoms. In dogs, the most common symptom is joint pain and swelling, with many dogs developing a fever. The disease can progress to lymph node swelling, heart problems, neurologic abnormalities and, finally, kidney failure. It is very rare for the disease to progress to this extreme. It usually takes two to five months after a tick bite for clinical signs to begin, but it can happen in a few weeks in some rare cases. Lyme disease almost never occurs in cats.

Most cases of Lyme are asymptomatic and are only diagnosed by your veterinarian running a routine yearly heartworm test that also tests for Lyme. The test we use in our clinic is a four-way test that tests for heartworm, Lyme, ehrlichia and anaplasmosis. Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and the other two are tick-transmitted.

The owners of dogs with Lyme usually come to me complaining of lameness or lethargy. Upon examination, I often find swollen joints, shifting leg lameness with the front limbs affected more often

than rear limbs and fever. When I ask if there have been any ticks on the dog in the last few months, most owners are not aware of any bites, nor have they seen any ticks.

The treatment for Lyme is doxycycline, a relatively inexpensive antibiotic, and NSAIDS (drugs like aspirin or Tylenol) made specifically for dogs. The costly part is the length of treatment, at least 30 days, but often two to three months or more. Hospitalization is rarely needed, only in severe cases where the fever is extremely high or the kidneys are affected. Lyme disease is rarely ever cured, just managed and sent into remission. In our practice, we treat all first-time positive dogs with a month of doxycycline, regardless of whether there are clinical signs.

Lyme is diagnosed by a simple blood test that your vet can run in the office in about 10 minutes. It basically tells whether your dog has Lyme. The problem is that a vaccinated dog can test positive or that false positives can occur. Positively tested dogs should have blood sent out to confirm and quantify the level of infection. These dogs are put on doxycycline for a minimum of 30 days, then re-tested to ensure the infection is decreasing.

The most important factor in Lyme is prevention. Keep ticks off your dog. Some steps include:

- Keep your lawn mowed short and apply a tick-preventing insecticide.
- Keep wildlife (deer, rodents, etc.) off your lawn, as well as other dogs and cats.
- Use a flea and tick preventative on your pets.
- Routinely check your pet for ticks and carefully remove any that you find by grasping the tick with tweezers at the skin of the dog and pulling straight out.

Vaccinations for Lyme are available for dogs; about 75 percent are effective. Since we live in the northeast, an endemic area for

Lyme, I recommend vaccination. Dog vaccines have long been used and, while there are risks to them, they are considerably safer than the human vaccine pulled from the market.

I'm frequently asked if a Lyme-positive dog should be vaccinated. If you ask 10 vets this question, you'll get a 50/50 split on the answer. My opinion: no, they should not. I believe a Lyme-positive dog's immune system will maintain enough memory to help prevent further infestation. A yearly vaccine would be overkill and potentially dangerous.




The dreaded deer tick.

Humans cannot get Lyme disease from dogs—only from a tick bite. Preventing tick bites is the key for us, as well as our furry companions. Remember: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.




Todd Rubey, DVM, a veterinarian for 12 years, works for the Colonial Park Animal Clinic.


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## O, Fresh-Cut Christmas Tree!

Visit a local tree farm for a great family event, a fine outing.

Kermit G. Henning



Concolor firs dot the landscape at Blue Ridge Christmas Tree Farm in Annville.

begun in Germany, the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree became a symbol of Christian faith and was later established by Martin Luther as a Protestant counterpart to the Catholic Nativity scene.

By the 18th century, the custom of erecting and decorating trees in houses had become common in the Upper Rhineland area of Germany and spread throughout the country by the mid-1800s.

The first Christmas tree in America is claimed by the city of

Easton, Pa., where German settlers erected a tree in 1816. Lancaster records the use of a tree in 1821.

Today, not only homes all across the world, but also cities, towns, parks and stores erect public trees outdoors. The National Christmas Tree is lit each year on the Ellipse near the White House, kicking off a major holiday event.

Traditionally, Christmas trees were not put up in the home until Christmas Eve and taken down after the 12th night of Christmas—Jan. 6. Today, trees are erected as early as October. Tree vendors are already setting up their stands at Thanksgiving. Cutting live trees this early necessitates care and attention to keep it fresh throughout the holiday season. Many households use artificial trees both to ensure that they stay nice for the extended period and also to eliminate the cutting, pruning and watering of a live tree.

For me, there is nothing so pleasant as the tradition of picking a live tree, even cutting it myself, and enjoying the smell and texture of the tree inside the house. No plastic or aluminum tree can bring home the holidays as well.

Those who are concerned about the environment defend using a fake tree because they are not cutting a live tree from the forest. The fact is, most all Christmas trees are cut

from tree farms and are a renewable resource. Over a half-billion trees are grown on farms in the United States, and one to three seedlings are planted for every tree harvested. There are over 270 commercial Christmas tree farms in Pennsylvania alone. Most fake trees require the use of petroleum products to produce them and eventually end up in landfills. Real trees are recyclable and biodegradable.

The type of tree you choose depends on individual taste, but some trees are better suited for use as a Christmas tree than others. Of the many pine species, the Scotch pine is the most popular by far. This is a faster-growing, extremely hardy tree known for its dark green foliage and stiff branches, which are well-suited to decorating with lights and heavy ornaments. Needle retention is quite good and, even if left to dry out, there is very little needle drop. It is the most widely planted of all Christmas tree species. It's the easiest to grow, and the cost of Scotch pines is generally less than for other species.

The white pine is more of a commercial lumber tree but also makes an acceptable Christmas tree. Sheared trees are best, but this makes the foliage dense and tight, making decorating difficult. White pines have little scent but make a great tree for those with allergies.

Spruces, white and Norway varieties, are probably the least popular tree for cutting. The color is dark, they have little scent and needle retention is poor unless cut fresh and watered daily.

For the real scent that is associated with Christmas, the firs are hard to beat. Because of their excellent needle retention, pyramidal form, dark green color, pleasant scent and excellent shipping characteristics, Fraser and Balsam firs are the two most popular Christmas tree species. Concolor fir has many of the same characteristics but a much lighter color and flatter needles.

With all real trees, the fresher they are cut, the better. They will hold their needles much longer, retain their aroma and stay softer. The time and effort invested in choosing and decorating a real tree are nothing compared to what you get out of it—great memories, a home that “smells” like Christmas and the knowledge that you made a good environmental choice. That's not a hassle at all in my book.



Kermit G. Henning, host of abc27 Outdoors TV, is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.

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## Routine Screening for HIV

You may be at greater risk than you think.

*Dr. John Goldman*

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently changed its recommendation for screening for patients infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Formerly the CDC recommended a targeted testing strategy that concentrated on testing patients with risk factors. The CDC now recommends routine screening for HIV regardless of patients' or their care providers' perception of their risk.

HIV is becoming increasingly common in the United States. Approximately 1 million Americans are living with HIV, and there are approximately 50,000 new infections per year. Twenty-five percent of HIV-infected Americans (about 250,000 people) are unaware they have acquired the virus.

In the United States, the rates of HIV infection are highest in minority populations. For example, the rates of infection in African-American men are six times higher than in white men, and the rate of incidence in African-American women is 15 times higher than in white women. One-in-16 African-American men and 1-in-30 African-American women will be infected at some time during their lifetimes.

The rates of HIV in some urban centers are four to six times higher than the rates in the general population. In fact, the rates of HIV infection in these urban centers are comparable to the rates of infection in Haiti and Sub-Saharan Africa, where the disease is considered to be epidemic among the general population.

HIV is often thought to be limited to certain high-risk groups (men who have sex with men or intravenous drug users). In this country, in HIV-infected men, this is still true to some extent. Eighty percent of men who are infected acquired the infection through intravenous drug use or male-to-male sex. In contrast, in HIV-infected women, only 25 percent have a traditional risk factor and three-quarters acquired the disease through high-risk heterosexual sexual transmission.

HIV is surprisingly common among the general population and among people who do not consider themselves to be at risk and who do not seek testing.

If patients are not tested as part of a routine physical, they are much more likely

to present symptoms late in the course of the disease. Sixty percent of people who are tested because of a suspicious illness develop full blown AIDS within a year of diagnosis. In contrast, only 10 percent of patients who are diagnosed with HIV as part of testing during a routine physical develop AIDS during the same time period.

People who are unaware of their HIV infection are much more likely to continue to engage in high-risk activity. Consequently, people who are unaware that they are HIV-infected are a major driving force behind the epidemic's spread. The 25 percent of HIV-infected patients who do not know they are infected are responsible for more than half of the new cases of HIV and are 3½ times more likely to spread the virus.

Routine testing for HIV will clearly uncover undiagnosed disease, result in earlier diagnosis of HIV and prevent its spread. HIV testing should be considered part of the routine testing for all adult Americans, even if they do not believe they are at risk.



*Dr. John Goldman is the Program Director of Internal Medicine at PinnacleHealth.*

## Spine Institute Debuts

PinnacleHealth has opened the PinnacleHealth Spine Institute.

The new institute brings together neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, physiatrists, pain management specialists, nurses, imaging services and physical therapy services to provide a comprehensive assessment and treatment program. For more information, call 1-877-499-SPINE or [pinnaclehealth.org/spine](http://pinnaclehealth.org/spine).

## Family Care Facility

Construction is underway on a 26,000-square-foot building that will house PinnacleHealth's new family care practice at Waterford Drive in Silver Spring Township. The facility will provide screening and lab services when it opens in April.



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## 10 Lords a-Feasting

A trainer's skewed take on holiday gorging.

Laura Spurgeon

Most folks enjoy rich memories of lavish holiday dinners, desserts and parties. And every year, magazines and talk shows devote hours to advising the struggling dieter or exerciser how to expertly navigate the holiday scene.

Why add to that noise? I'm a personal trainer, and I can tell you from the parade of guilty-looking folks that skulk into the gym on Jan. 2, nobody listens to it anyway. So let's just lay it out there: the Top 10 Tips for Blowing it Over the Holidays.

1. *Dig yourself a really, really deep hole.* Think of your daily caloric intake as an expense account. First, decide how much you want to

spend on protein, carbs and fats over the course of the day. Then be a real American: Spend way beyond your means and go horribly into debt. Run up the tab on alcohol and sugar, because that bloated, sick feeling is a holiday MUST!

2. *Wear baggy clothes and avoid mirrors.* I know you wanted to wear that gorgeous emerald green sheath to the office holiday party, but that would require weeks of gustatory restraint and moderate exercise. Besides, green shows spills. Wear black instead. Preferably something with elastic and no zippers.

3. *Try to do as little as possible.* Drive around the mall parking lot looking

for the closest space. Walking burns precious calories that it will take at least two cookies to make up. And whatever you do, don't set foot inside a gym. Those places are full of fitness freaks who don't know the meaning of "sugar high."

4. *Eat and drink things you don't like because they're holiday staples.* For example, I find eggnog disgusting, but I've forced myself to drink it because it's a tradition. There's no other time of year that I can be offended by that gag-tastic flavor. So if fruitcake leaves you green around the gills, take a seat and painfully savor every mouthful.

5. *Starve yourself before every holiday party.* Arrive hungry, bull-rush the kitchen and eat everything that isn't nailed down. Eating sensibly throughout the day will take the edge off your appetite, and it's no secret that restraint is a holiday party faux pas.

6. *Eat part of whatever you're cooking, while you are cooking it.* It doesn't have to be an entire soup spoon of cookie dough (though that's outstanding!), but every little lick,

taste and slurp counts toward your daily calorie count. Rack 'em up.

7. *Don't be distracted from sloth!* Family and friends might try to take the focus off food with time-wasting games like horseshoes, badminton, sledding, ice skating or playing in the snow. Those activities burn calories and dampen your appetite! If you must, watch a movie or play cards, but insist on copious salty and/or sugary snacks.

8. *Don't forget the alcohol!* Alcohol is a great way to gain a few pounds with minimal effort. True, only about 5 percent of the calories in alcohol are turned directly into fat, but it actually inhibits the body from burning its fat stores. Most of the calories in alcohol are turned into a chemical called acetate, which the body burns instead of fat.

9. *Be sure to fill up on snacks and appetizers.* Before dinner, try to sample every appetizer, especially saucy, cheesy ones, are excellent sources of fat, salt and sugar. Avoid veggie trays unless with buckets of ranch or blue cheese dressing.

10. *Whatever you do, beat yourself up over it.* The holidays can bring up all sorts of emotions, especially among family members. It's the perfect time to drag out that negative self-image and really wallow in guilt and regret. Don't forget to have a bag of M&Ms handy for any sudden crying jags!

Here's the one piece of (legitimate) advice that I give out at this time of year. The holidays are about so much more than food and drinking. Enjoy your friends and family, especially those you don't see very often. I can guarantee that the party menu won't be the best memory you'll take away.



Laura Spurgeon is a certified personal trainer and group fitness director at Gold's Gym, Camp Hill. She can be reached at [lspurgeon@aol.com](mailto:lspurgeon@aol.com).

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**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-** 1302 N 3rd St • 717.236.1680 • [www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)

Noon: the science of (coffee) cupping. 2 pm: sample tea & scones. 6-9 pm: Yellow Wall Gallery reception for "Communion," paintings by Keith Pomeroy. 7-9 pm: Holiday music. Saturday 12/18, 3-5 pm: "Seasons," harp & string trio. 7-9 pm: Philly's "D & M" folk-rock band.

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