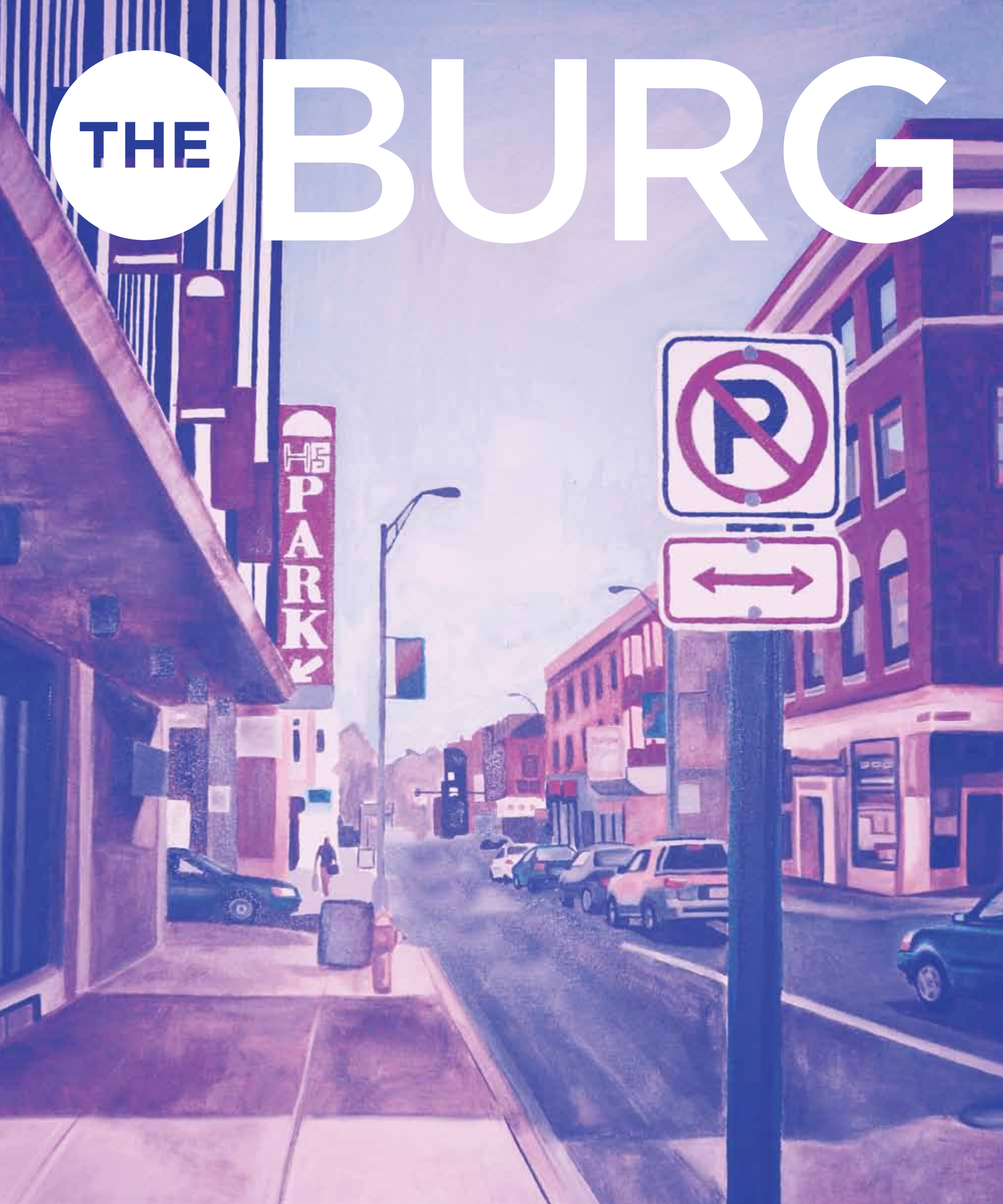


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COVER ART BY: MEGAN DAVIS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

March couldn't come fast enough. For the past two months, we've watched time creep by, waiting for the day when TheBurg again would be available throughout greater Harrisburg. We wanted so much to share with our readers all the changes, all the improvements, we had made. And now, finally, it's here.

Perhaps you already know of some of our changes: a new publisher, new staff, new office, new—well, almost everything. As I've joked many times recently, I'm the only old thing at the new Burg.

But it's only when you turn these pages that you'll experience a community newspaper that has been thoroughly re-thought and re-assembled into what we believe is a world-class news product for our great city.

In short, we took everything that was good about TheBurg—and there was plenty—and tried to make it better still. In these pages, you'll see a greater emphasis on design and art; more in-depth stories; additional community voices; a greater variety of writers. And, coming soon, we'll launch a new online presence, one that better integrates our print and digital products.

With this issue, we begin a new story for TheBurg, one that we hope will better reflect and serve our community. We think it's something that Harrisburg has never seen before, and we hope you like it.

**LAWRANCE BINDA**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

THEBURG

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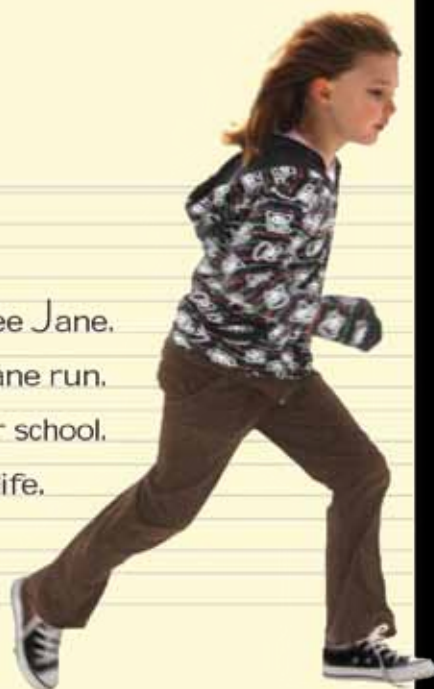


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## A NEW ERA

*TheBurg has had a great start.  
With your help, we can build an incredible future.*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

Over the past four years, Larry Binda and Pete and Angela Durantine have built a wonderful community resource through this monthly publication called TheBurg. Part newspaper, part magazine, their efforts to understand our city and region—articulate its many resources and attributes and inform all of us about the real news and events—have been second to none. Like many of you, I look forward to reading each new issue to discover what is really occurring in our community.

TheBurg has built its success around you, our readers and advertisers, who understand that, collectively, we are much more than the negative news that is reported about us daily over the airwaves and pages of other publications. While these other outlets often focus on the five percent or less of what ails us, TheBurg provides insight into the 95 percent of what actually goes on (and goes right) in our daily lives. Like a breath of fresh air, TheBurg tells the stories of the businesses that start up, instead of just the ones that have moved on. TheBurg tells us who is coming to town and who is staying, not just who is leaving. TheBurg tells the amazing stories of these creative, energetic and wonderful people who make this a great place to live, work and play. Perhaps most importantly, TheBurg attempts to provide context and insight into our local sphere.

That energy and vision has led me to accept the challenge of trying to continue the founders' success and to see if we can do something more. While Pete and Angela move on, Larry will continue to lead us as editor-in-chief. I'm also delighted to introduce to you our new managing editor, Dan Webster, and our new sales manager, Lauren Mills. Both of them bring energy and vision to this publication. I look forward to having you get to know them as I do.

In the coming months, a talented team of writers will begin to supplement and enhance those whom you have grown to know and enjoy. We will keep telling the stories you have come to expect, but we will also publish one or two more in-depth articles each month. We will attempt to provide context and understanding—not just sound and data bites—to the community.

You will also see changes to our layout and design, as well as an increased presence on the web. If you would like to contribute an idea or picture or write a story that we should be telling, we trust that you will let us know.

Our goal is to enhance and expand TheBurg to be a thought leader, the conscience of the community, if you will. We know that the region has the skills and talent to do it well. What we will need to discover is if the community will also pay for such a publication through increased advertising and perhaps even a paid subscription. It is no secret that we need to double our advertising income in 2013 if we hope to be around in 2014. It is my firm belief—and my financial bet—that collectively we can and we will. I hope you will join us. I hope you will enjoy TheBurg.

*J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.*



### 4 DEMOCRATS FOR MAYOR

The Democratic primary for mayor is shaping up as a four-way race pitting the incumbent against three well-known rivals.

At press time, candidates for the Democratic nomination included Mayor Linda Thompson, city Controller Dan Miller, businessman Eric Papenfuse and community activist Lewis Butts Jr.

Thompson has held the post for the past term, often butting heads with Miller, who also leads the Harrisburg-based accounting firm of Miller, Dixon, Drake. Papenfuse, the owner of Midtown Scholar Bookstore and former member of the Harrisburg Authority, has run previously for City Council and county commissioner. Butts is a member of Harrisburg's Environmental Advisory Council.

The field could yet change, as nominating petitions are due March 12. The primary will be held on May 21. The winner will run in the Nov. 5 general election.

In addition, community activist Nevin Mindlin, who ran four years ago as a Republican, said he would run this year as an independent.

As of press time, no Republican candidates had declared for the office.

### CITY SPOKESMAN DEPARTS

The man at the center of a prolonged battle between the City Council and mayor over staffing and salary resigned last month as city spokesman.

Robert Philbin worked all of last year for free after the council struck his job from the 2012 budget. Council refused to fund his position even after city receivers David Unkovic and William Lynch reinstated the post as part of their financial recovery plan for the city. Lynch later asked the Commonwealth Court to force the council to fund the position.

The council majority abruptly reversed itself for this fiscal year, deciding to fund the \$70,000-a-year job starting Jan. 1. Philbin announced his resignation shortly afterward, taking a job as marketing and communications officer for Capital Area Transit.

Mayor Linda Thompson awarded Philbin the key to the city on his last day of work.





## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FOR LITTLE AMPS

A new coffeehouse for downtown Harrisburg took a leap forward last month, as interior renovation began for the second location of Little Amps Coffee Roasters.

Owner Aaron Carlson was on hand to supervise the initial work to the building at the corner of State and N. 2nd streets, the former home of State Street Copy & Press. Carlson said he will offer the same high-quality, freshly roasted coffee as at his first location in Olde Uptown, as well as baked goods and light fare.

The new café is expected to open in May.

In addition to the café, developer WCI Partners is constructing two market-rate apartments above the store, said company President David Butcher.

## HACC DORMS NOW RENTAL UNITS

A plan to add HACC student housing in Midtown Harrisburg has ended due to lower-than-expected demand, with the houses turned into rental properties.

Under an agreement with HACC, GreenWorks Development last year built seven townhouses on the 1600-block of N. 4th Street, expecting to rent them to as many as 26 students.

About 15 students moved into the houses for the fall semester. However, demand was not strong enough to continue the program, said Matt Tunnell, senior vice president of GreenWorks.

“When we went into this, we thought it might work or maybe there’d be no demand or maybe it would be somewhere in between,” he said. “It’s somewhere in between, but the demand leaned more towards market-rate housing.”

GreenWorks owns 43 lots, most undeveloped, in the Capitol Heights neighborhood in an area extending from N. 3rd to N. 5th and Harris and Hamilton streets.

Tunnell said the houses rented quickly, which may lead GreenWorks to continue building townhouses there.

“They’re market-rate rentals, and they’re renting fast,” he said. “We’re very pleased with how it’s going.”

## LOAN FUND REINSTITUTED

The Harrisburg City Council last month appointed three members to the city’s Economic Development Loan Review Committee, thereby reviving a moribund program that funnels public money to private businesses.

Mayor Linda Thompson nominated city residents David Riley, Joshua Robertson and Brittany Brock to the committee. Council confirmed all three unanimously.

The committee will consider applications for loans from an initial pot of \$166,735 derived from the city’s sale last year of the historic McFarland Press Building.

## APPOINTEES TO ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

Three Harrisburg residents were named last month to the city’s new Environmental Advisory Council.

City Council confirmed the appointments of Rachel Diamond, Rafiqqa Muhammad and Bill Cluck, who also serves as chairman of the Harrisburg Authority.

The Advisory Council was formed last year to carry out environmental projects and education. Its activities are to be funded by the \$1-a-ton fee on solid waste that Harrisburg receives as the host city for the incinerator, which also accepts trash from other municipalities.



## CAFÉ AT 1500 DEBUTS

Midtown Harrisburg has a new place to enjoy a good meal, as Café at 1500 opened last month in the new condominium building at N. 6th and Reily streets.

The sleek, modern-looking bistro serves breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday and brunch on Saturday. The reasonably priced, California-style menu is focused on casual fare, such as sandwiches, salads, pizza and soups.

The restaurant, located on the first floor of The 1500 Project, soon will add dinner and Sunday brunch, said owner Richard Hanna, best known as the owner of Roxy’s, an eatery across N. 3rd Street from the Capitol.

Currently, the bistro is BYOB, but plans to serve drinks once it obtains a liquor license, which is pending, said Hanna.

*Café at 1500 can be reached at 717-233-2200.*



*Photo Credit: Nomad Photography by Michael Drake II*

## POLAR BEAR PLUNGE

Shivering, scantily clad bathers took a refreshing swim last month at the Polar Bear Plunge, which benefits Special Olympics Pennsylvania. A large crowd gathered on City Island to watch the hardy volunteers wade into the icy Susquehanna River from City Island. The annual event was delayed due to high water, but went off a week later on a bone-chilling, mid-winter day.

## CAFÉ DI LUNA EXPANDING TO WEST SHORE

Ambreen Esmail is bringing her coffee magic to the West Shore, opening up a second Café di Luna location in New Cumberland.

Since starting in Harrisburg almost four years ago, Esmail has gained a reputation as a connoisseur of the coffee bean, as she searches the world for the best product for her shop at 1004 N. 3rd St. in Midtown.

She said she will deliver the same high-quality coffee, teas and locally-baked goods to the new location at 315 Bridge St., near the West Shore Theatre.

The West Shore location will debut on April 1, said Esmail. It formerly housed the Oxford Hall Celtic Shop, which last year moved up the block.

## CO-WORK SPACE “STARTS UP” IN MIDTOWN

Harrisburg’s first co-working space, st@rtup, opened March 1, offering a place for freelancers and other independent workers to set up shop.

The storefront, at 1519 N. 3rd St. in Midtown, last housed Absolute Wellness fitness studio.

“We’re so excited to bring this resource to small business owners and other creative professionals in our region who need a place to grow their businesses and succeed,” said co-owner Adam Porter.

Added his business partner Adam Brackbill, “We aim to offer a space that is professional, yet easy going; collaborative, yet independent where our members can be far more productive than in their spare bedroom or at a local cafe.”

*For more information, visit [startupbbg.com](http://startupbbg.com).*





## KOPLINSKI RUNS FOR LT. GOV.

Harrisburg Councilman Brad Koplinski last month announced he would run for the post of lieutenant governor of Pennsylvania.

At a press conference in the East Wing of the Capitol, Koplinski, a Democrat, became the first declared candidate for the post. The primary election is in May 2014, with the victor running in the November general election with the winner of the gubernatorial primary as a single slate.

Koplinski said he is uniquely qualified for the post because of his experience on council during Harrisburg’s financial crisis.

“Dealing with the adversity so many of the commonwealth’s communities are facing has steeled my resolve to help find solutions to the many challenges Pennsylvania’s municipalities, large and small, must face on a daily basis,” he said.

He also criticized the Corbett administration for positions on the Marcellus shale tax, lottery privatization and privatizing the state’s liquor stores.

A lawyer, Koplinski has served on the council for five years. He also has served as a political consultant and, last year, helped found Penn Blue Strategies, a firm supporting the election of Democratic candidates in the state.

Republican Jim Cawley currently serves as lieutenant governor.



## ALE HOUSE REPLACES HARDWARE BAR

Changes continue to come at a brisk pace to Harrisburg’s downtown restaurant district, as the Susquehanna Ale House last month replaced the Hardware Bar.

For a dozen years, the Hardware Bar has been a fixture at the corner of N. 2nd and Pine streets and was a key

part of the city’s reputation for having a vibrant, often raucous, nightlife.

Owner Ron Kamionka runs nightclubs and bars in several other Pennsylvania cities and is converting several of them to Susquehanna Ale Houses, which offer dozens of craft beers by the bottle, in addition to a limited menu.

The change seems to signal an evolution of 2nd Street away from a youth-oriented culture to more adult fare.

Right next door, the Dragonfly nightclub recently was replaced by the Federal Taphouse, an upscale pub offering quality food and 100 varieties of beer on tap.

In addition, Kamionka recently opened the 2nd Street Comedy Club, which is bringing nationally known acts to Harrisburg and is located upstairs from the new Susquehanna Ale House.

.....

## GAMING FUNDS DISBURSED

Dauphin County commissioners last month selected a number of area projects and businesses for the annual disbursement of gaming funds. Among the recipients:

- Harrisburg (10 new police patrol vehicles), \$409,000
- Steelton (streetscape improvements and firefighter gear), \$182,000
- HACC (Shumaker Public Safety Center renovations and expansion), \$250,000
- Susquehanna Township (expansion and improvements to Capital Area Greenbelt), \$50,000
- Dauphin County Library System (replacement of Integrated Library System software), \$151,500
- Dauphin County Library System (other), \$220,000
- Hamilton Health Center (funds for unanticipated costs in health center construction), \$238,000
- Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg (flood mitigation measures for Jewish Community Center), \$225,000
- Midtown Square Action Council (community improvement project), \$10,000
- PA Farm Show Complex (traffic and parking study for major events contingent on GAB approval of study specs), \$67,500
- Dauphin County Historical Society (renovations to Simon Cameron Mansion), \$100,000
- Harrisburg Young Professionals, \$50,000
- Harrisburg Stampede, \$50,000

In all, the commissioners doled out \$9.8 million to 48 projects throughout the county.

.....

## CHANGING HANDS: JANUARY PROPERTY SALES

- Berryhill St., 2244: PA Deals LLC to T. Valinoto et al, \$67,900
- Boas St., 120: M. Danner to F. Harris, \$115,000
- Briggs St., 219: A. Rung to B. Heivly, \$131,000
- Calder St., 106: C. Graci to G. & K. Tennis, \$180,000
- Fillmore St., 624: C. Bross to M. Abdullah, \$59,900
- Forster St., 262: G. Casale to B. Swaminathan, \$135,000
- Greenwood St., 2600: J. Long to Q. Long, \$79,000
- Kelker St., 207: K. Madden to C. Cingranelli, \$160,000
- Kelker St., 236: Fannie Mae to T. Jackson, \$130,000

- Kensington St., 2417: S. Phung & T. Nguyen to P. & D. Bang, \$42,000
- Market St., 2101: C. Grieger & C. Chamberlain to T. & M. Shearer, \$145,000
- N. 2nd St., 1209: Integrity Bank to GO Trump Inc., \$195,000
- N. 2nd St., 2415: M. Abramson to N. Ciprani, \$74,500
- N. 2nd St., 2827: B. Garcia to J. Prosseda, \$326,500
- N. 3rd St., 1423 & 1423½: H. Hoffman to E. & C. Papenfuse, \$119,000
- N. 7th St., 2301 & 2327: Philadelphia Suburban Development Corp. to Sam Hill Properties LLC, \$390,000
- N. 12th St., 1735: 12th Indiana Associates Inc. to 1735 N. 12th LLC, \$288,000
- N. 15th St., 1609: PA Deals LLC to Cama Sdira LLC, \$51,500
- Penn St., 1915: WCI Partners to A. Mills, \$134,900
- Swatara St., 1239: J. & Y. Lee to D & F Realty Holdings LP, \$50,000
- Sycamore St., 1525: Rudolph B. Gornik Trust to J. Moyer, \$33,000
- Walnut St., 1800: Wells Fargo Bank NA to Willow LLC, \$30,000

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

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Photo Credit: Sean Simmers, The Patriot-News

## MILLER AGREES TO SIGN AUCTION CONTRACT

City Controller Dan Miller last month approved a contract to auction off the city’s vast artifact collection, ending a prolonged battle over the issue with the Thompson administration.

For nearly a year, Miller refused to OK the contract between the city and New York-based auctioneer Guernsey’s, stating that the City Council must explicitly endorse the terms of the deal before he’d sign it.

In November, a Dauphin County Court judge ordered Miller to sign the contract. He then asked for a stay from the Commonwealth Court, which refused his request.

The administration had hoped to conduct the auction last summer. Mayor Linda Thompson said she now expects the auction to be held this summer.

The museum artifacts were collected over many years by former Mayor Stephen Reed, who wanted to turn Harrisburg into a museum destination. Most are for a proposed Wild West museum that was never built.

Disposition of the artifacts is part of the receiver’s financial recovery plan for the city. Estimates of the value of the artifacts range from about \$500,000 to several million dollars.





# AN UNGLAMOROUS JOB

*What do we need from the next mayor of Harrisburg?*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

As TheBurg moves into a new era, so too is the city of Harrisburg, as the mayoral primary is just two months ahead. As is typical in this city, the winner of the Democratic primary stands a strong chance of claiming the top slot in city government come November.

To me, this is the perfect time to re-examine the office itself. As a voter, what do you want from your next mayor? Or, to put it in more philosophical terms: what exactly does it mean to be the mayor of Harrisburg?

In many cities, this question would be silly. The mayor is the mayor is the mayor. But, in Harrisburg, it's a relevant question indeed.

For decades under Steve Reed, being mayor of Harrisburg meant being the man in charge, the person through whom everything flowed. Some people likened Reed to a benevolent dictator and, indeed, it was tough to get anything of significance done without his approval.

Though she defeated Reed, Linda Thompson seemed to share his take on the office, immediately adopting an imperious style of leadership.

And, today, listening to some early campaign rhetoric, I'm not optimistic that the candidates fully grasp what Harrisburg needs in a mayor.

So, then, what is the mayor of Harrisburg?

The mayor of Harrisburg is an administrator, an administrator of a large town of 49,500, mostly poor, residents.

The mayor of Harrisburg leads a group of people who police streets, pick up trash, fix roads and, generally speaking, are tasked with using our tax

dollars efficiently to make life here livable.

That's the mayor of Harrisburg.

The mayor of Harrisburg doesn't exist so I can be inspired. The mayor of Harrisburg doesn't exist so he or she can feel important. The mayor of Harrisburg shouldn't be synonymous with melodrama or name-calling or silly personal feuds.

The mayor of Harrisburg needs to stay focused on the job at hand. The mayor cannot be distracted by TV cameras or yes men or high financiers or catered affairs. These things do not fix streetlights or make sure the park grass gets mowed.

Yes, the mayor of Harrisburg should have a sense of the common good, but that good is inevitably tied to providing basic services to the people and doing so in a fiscally honest and responsible way.

It has nothing to do with weighing in on national issues. Do you—does anyone—care what the mayor of Harrisburg thinks about childhood obesity or mental health issues or God?

An effective mayor does not court media attention or strike back at reporters. She takes criticism in stride, keeps her head down and humbly gets the job done.

An effective mayor doesn't take the bait from the left, which might seek to turn local government into an organ of social justice. Nor does he take the bait from the right, which may want government "to act" like a business or kowtow to business, or as in the

case of Reed, turn government into a business.

The mayor provides services as effectively as possible. He's hired for a few years by the people so that potholes are filled, fires fought and recyclables collected.

To get this job done, he does not go to war with other branches of government, antagonizing, bullying or sidelining them. He works closely with the council, treasurer and controller, collaborating and compromising for the common good.

That's the mayor of Harrisburg.

I have lived in several capitals, and, as a result, have identified a debilitating condition that I call

"Capital City Syndrome."

Capital City Syndrome afflicts local officials who, unlike their peers in other small cities, get to hang out in ornate Capitol buildings with legislators and governors and even presidents. They get the

attention of lobbyists and white shoe lawyers and Wall Streeters, many of whom want something from them. In turn, they get to feel very important.

There's no question that speaking at a swanky reception full of big shots is far preferable to sitting for hours in a hot City Council chamber wrestling over broken sewers or bulk trash pickups.

But that's the job—the unglamorous, grinding and often thankless job—of the mayor of Harrisburg. **B**

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



A city deeply in debt; an infrastructure crisis brought on by years of neglect; a crime rate at epidemic levels; a population demoralized by poor past political leadership and a recalcitrant refuse problem. Sound familiar? Harrisburg 2013, of course. But also New York, circa 1977, when Ed Koch was elected mayor for the first of his three terms.

At Koch's funeral last month, the current mayor, Michael Bloomberg, said of him, "The New York that Ed inherited is almost unimaginable today. There was crime, a broken government and whole neighborhoods that looked like they had been bombed out in an air raid."

But Mayor Bloomberg also said, "He restored the arc of our city's history. He reminded us why we loved New York, and he inspired us to fight for it."

Harrisburg had its Ed Koch, so to speak. That was former Mayor (for Life) Stephen Reed, another man married to his politics. He too helped re-engage and re-inspire a demoralized population devastated by years of crisis—from race riots to floods to its citizenry fleeing to the suburbs—by aiding in the re-imagining of the downtown business district, drawing regionally attractive entertainment options like minor league baseball into the city's borders and using modern financing mechanisms to support significant new development for the first time in almost a generation.

It is hard not to see the similarities between the two cities and the two men. Unfortunately, the differences are just as stark.

Harrisburg didn't have the advantage of New York's world-class cultural cachet or tax income derived from a booming 1980s Wall Street to support a declining residential tax base along with a large percentage of tax-exempt municipal properties and non-profit entities.

And although Mayor Reed and Mayor Koch both had pugnacious personalities, Reed detested dialogue while Koch once said, "If you agree with me on nine out of 12 issues, vote for me. If you agree with me on 12 out of 12 issues, see a psychiatrist."

And that is the root of much of the ongoing dysfunction that emanates from the halls of Harrisburg. Under Reed, the idiom of "my way or the highway" became a de-facto rule of law. Even now, there's too often an attitude of coddling or conflict with city government, rather than one of cooperation and coordination. That's how we got a bungled retrofit of the Resource Recovery Facility, a structural deficit untended for a decade or more, an emaciated city workforce that is simultaneously overworked and overprotective of its perfunctory prerogatives and a haze of officialdom that easily confuses the average citizen attempting to find even the simplest of answers to basic governing questions.

However, it is undeniable that there's momentum for change and renewal in the collective Harrisburg ethos. Granted it will take the re-invention of the city's governmental and schooling structures to conjure the skeleton key that will unlock the doors of sustainable and scalable economic development. However, there is a grassroots energy beginning to percolate in neighborhoods

across the city. Perhaps it's only fool's gold, just the nature of social media or that feeling of freedom when there is little to lose. And, so far, its effects are difficult to quantify with any meaningful metrics.

But as evidenced by Today's the Day, Lighten Up Harrisburg, a coalescing the City Beautiful 2.0 movement, the Green Urban Initiative, The MakeSpace and countless other nascent initiatives and small business endeavors, it feels as if the city's communal corpus had been hibernating and is only now reawakening and stretching its municipal muscles, slowly strengthening its civic connective tissue that is sorely needed to support the bureaucratic backbone of government. Perhaps, in time, Harrisburg will even be muscular enough to reach back and pull forward those same attributes

that made it one of the most thriving, vibrant and progressive cities in the early 20th century (for more details, read "City Contented, City Discontented," available at your local library or bookstore).

I realize that some readers will think "maybe in NYC, but that could never happen here." True, it will require cooperation, dedication and commitment from all the city's constituencies: local officials and state actors; corporate entities and small businesses; daily commuters and all-day citizens; community activists and nonprofit agencies.

After all, it did take New York a long time to come back from its brink. I should know. I lived there in the mid-'90s, when the city was transitioning from the most dangerous big city in America to its safest, and yet I still couldn't get a cab to take me from Manhattan to Brooklyn. Culture change takes time.

I am also sure those same cynical sentiments of doubt were communicated to Mayor Koch when he first took office. But he just kept on with his optimistic disposition, famously greeting constituents with the question, "How am I doin'?" Perhaps, if Mayor Reed had taken the same approach to governing that Mayor Koch had, Harrisburg's financial health and his legacy wouldn't find itself so badly damaged today.

So Harrisburg, don't forget: we're all in this together.

Stay focused, but stay accountable, both to the task at hand and to each other. Change—of any kind—is sure to be chaotic. It will be uneven and at times seem stuck in reverse.

In our quest to make this city a more vibrant, healthy and safe environment in which to live, we just need to keep moving forward with our individual and mutual efforts and remember—every so often—to stop and ask ourselves, "How are WE doin'?" **B**

## HOW ARE WE DOIN', HARRISBURG?

*Just like New York, our city can  
come back from the brink.*

BY BRUCE P. WEBER



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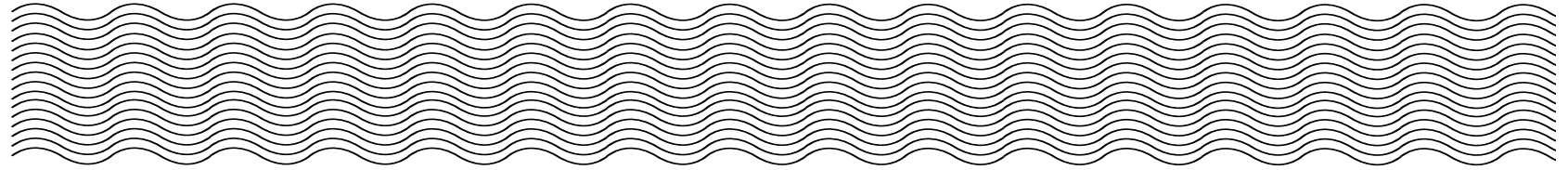
Bruce P. Weber currently serves as a member of Harrisburg City Council and can be reached at [HBGCC.bweber@gmail.com](mailto:HBGCC.bweber@gmail.com) or on Twitter @btrain12.



# ALL QUIET ON THE SUSQUEHANNA

*As the early drama has ebbed, Harrisburg's receiver methodically implements his financial recovery plan.*

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY



**O**n Oct. 20, 2011, Gov. Tom Corbett signed Senate bill 1151 and, with that mark of the pen, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania established a law enabling the state takeover of third class cities that fail to deliver themselves to fiscal solvency.

Six weeks later, the capital city became the first PA municipality to be in receivership.

The one-year anniversary of the City of Harrisburg's receivership came and went without acknowledgement or fanfare. While it hasn't always been this way, right now Harrisburg's receivership appears quiet, calm and steady. At one point, though, it was charged and sensational.

That was last spring when the previous receiver, David Unkovic, resigned his position after declaring he was getting pressure from creditors to institute solutions he didn't believe were the best thing for Harrisburg. He said he was concerned "about the environment with which I'm trying to get this recovery done." His departure hinted at corruption of the statutory process and enforced what many in and out of Harrisburg have long seen as a manipulation of the city's circumstances. Subsequently, Unkovic drew a lot of attention to Harrisburg's recovery, including that of state legislators who began a series of hearings, roundtable discussions and bills to help address the capital city's financial crisis.

It's in that tenor that Unkovic's successor, Maj. Gen. William Lynch, is now working. In the wake of the growing public awareness, the receiver and his team are charging full steam ahead with fulfilling the Commonwealth Court-approved financial recovery plan that is also part of Unkovic's legacy.

While the receiver has changed, the receiver's team has not. The law firm of McKenna, Long and Aldridge, the Novak Consulting Group, the Public Resources Advisory Group (PRAG)—along with personnel and resources of the state's Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED)—have been toiling to implement the plan. Per the statute, the receiver has broad powers and authority. He can give orders to elected and appointed officials, negotiate on behalf of the city and sell or lease public assets. Besides levying taxes, he's basically permitted to do what he needs to do to carry out the plan. On behalf of the citizens, the recovery plan must address the city's fiscal problems at the same time as provide what are referred to as "vital and necessary services." These include police and fire,

trash collection, water, sanitation, snow removal and fulfillment of debt obligations.

Harrisburg is estimated to have a debt of at least \$330 million tied to its guarantee of a public project gone awry, the retrofit of the incinerator. There are creditors lined up demanding payment, which has resulted in several lawsuits, most notably by the city's major creditors, the bond insurer Assured Guaranty and Dauphin County, which guaranteed \$104 million of the incinerator financing. While Harrisburg City Council has consistently omitted the debt payments from the city's budget, it was included this year. At this point in time, Harrisburg has no way of paying the \$72.2 million debt service payment owed at the end of this year.

Although the state prohibition on filing for Chapter 9 municipal bankruptcy has a sunset, receiver Lynch has been very clear he doesn't intend to venture down that road unless creditors remain as recalcitrant as they have in the past. Lynch's approach has been to set his pieces in place, have the city do everything it can (such as pass an earned income tax increase), raise fees that, in most cases, haven't been raised in years and put its major assets up for lease and sale. No matter who the receiver has been, each one has asserted that this set-up is necessary to show good faith efforts in resolving Harrisburg's debt. The benefit of this approach is two-fold: creditors can see the beleaguered city is attempting to meet its obligations and, if creditors refuse to make concessions, the receiver can head to bankruptcy court showing the city did everything it could to avoid being there.

Hopefully, it doesn't look like that's where the city will find itself. In fact, the receiver's spokesman Cory Angel said Lynch and his team are positive about the process. "Confidential negotiations have begun with the creditors, and we are optimistic that we will arrive at a resolution that will be fair to all parties. When that will happen is impossible to tell, but it's fair to say that a good amount of progress has been made recently."

It's not just the creditors the receiver is dealing with, though. It's unions, three of them—police, fire and non-uniformed employees. Concessions will need to be gotten from them, too. Naturally, everyone is fairly tight-lipped on those proceedings, but knowing that everyone is at the table is a virtue. Before the state came in, many parties weren't even talking to one another.

As if all of that strategizing isn't enough, as the receiver and his team are wont to tell, the massive debt is not the most significant thing the plan is attempting to attend to. It's the city's structural deficit that's the issue, and that's going to require not just draconian measures in city government but also changes in state laws if lasting remedy is the goal. Of Pennsylvania's 53 third class cities, 10 are currently in the state's program for financial distress, with more struggling to stay out. Harrisburg is the first one to be in receivership, and certainly the state wants it to be the last. Therefore, legislators are looking at ways to strengthen what are known as our urban cores. Besides such other examples as Scranton, the capital city's crisis and receivership are often cited as the impetus to develop radical changes to modernize and regionalize PA's municipal governmental structures.

State Sen. Rob Teplitz has been engaged in this very issue since taking office in January. As he sees it, it's integral for the state government to step in and assist struggling urban centers. "These cities provide land and services to government and many other entities. My colleagues and I want to find legitimate ways to compensate cities, ways that are not considered bailouts. The city is the core of the greater community. Investment in a city is long-term investment for the future prosperity of a region. If a city goes down, it's going to drag everything else down with it."

That's precisely what Harrisburg's receiver is trying to prevent. Receivership is a two-year tenure, ending at the end of this year. However, the state can petition the court for a longer reign. The goal and hope, though, is that an extension is not required. If all works perfectly, negotiations with each and every stakeholder will culminate in the fall along with the sale of the incinerator to Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority and the leasing of the parking system to Harrisburg First, LLC, a venture of Guggenheim Partners. The proceeds from these assets, along with the threat of bankruptcy, will be used to compel creditors into making concessions that relieve the city of any stranded debt left over from its massive \$330 million obligation. That, coupled with an overhaul of the way the city manages itself, will deliver Harrisburg to fiscal stability by the start of 2014. That is, if all works perfectly. Now it's just a matter of the receiver and his team pulling it off. **B**

*Tara Leo Auchey is creator and editor of today's the day Harrisburg.*



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# LIVING A CITY LIFE

*Harrisburg's problems are many, but its unique urban amenities still attract and keep residents.*

By Kerry Royer



*When Karen Lewis, a designer in Boston, realized she needed to relocate to within a two-hour drive of her family in Maryland, she determined four criteria for the next place she would live:*

**A REALLY AMAZING COFFEEHOUSE.  
A BOOKSTORE IN WHICH TO GET LOST.  
A DIVERSE GROCERY MARKET.  
A CINEMA WITH VARIED OFFERINGS.**

Lewis drew a two-hour drive radius around her mother's home and set out to discover a new city. After much research and eliminating other areas, she chose Harrisburg basically due to the ease of travel in the corridor between Boston, New York and Baltimore. She wasn't in the city more than a day when she found: Little Amps Coffee Roasters, The Midtown Scholar Bookstore, The Broad Street Market and the Midtown Cinema.

And they were all within walking distance of a three-story row house in the process of being lovingly refurbished and just about to hit the market. Lewis was standing at a Green Street intersection trying to get a sense of the vibe of the city when, just by happenstance, she met David Butcher, president of WCI Partners, a company committed to purchasing, restoring and re-selling historic homes in the city. She looked a bit lost to him, and he asked if she needed any help. Amidst their chatting, she told him she was in Harrisburg trying to "smoke it out" to see if she could see herself moving here.

He said, "If you are not afraid to get in the car of a stranger you just met on the street corner, I can show you a house that we are about to list."

Butcher unlocked the door of a historic,

1600-block Green Street home, sturdy and light all at the same time. At one time, an architect owned the home and, long ago, he put in skylights to open up the second floor. He built a deck around a magnificent tree in the backyard that rises higher than the homes clustered around it.

Kristine Werley of Urban Interiors, a city-focused design consulting company, was charged with the renovation of the home, and her skill makes the home feel contemporary and open while paying homage to the character one can only find in an old home, Lewis said. "I loved Werley's sense of combining old and new to make a space that is interesting, charming and practical all at the same time."

To Lewis, it echoed the feel of Harrisburg neighborhoods.

She knew that she needed a city to thrive, but she found a deeper connection to Harrisburg. As a designer, Lewis studied patterns of public places and combined her learning with landscape planning and garden design. She developed a keen eye for effective use of parks and open space.

She learned that Harrisburg was part of the early 20th century City Beautiful movement inspired by urban designer Frederick Law Olmsted. Harrisburg's part was led by Boston landscape architect Warren Manning—a trainee of Olmsted's—and Harrisburg citizen Mira Lloyd Dock.

"City Beautiful" implemented modern foundations of urban planning and design to create beautiful, spacious and orderly cities that improved open space and quality of life. The design also was meant to inspire residents toward more civic involvement. Some examples of other cities that employed this framework were Washington, D.C., Seattle, Denver and Dallas. Central Park in New York showcases this design today, as do areas along the Charles River in Boston.

"It clicked for me that Harrisburg was aligned with all of my favorite cities in America. It's no wonder I felt right at home instantly," said Lewis.

Despite the city's highly publicized problems with municipal finances and sensationalized crime reporting, Lewis was not deterred. "If you watch the news, you would think that New York City is the worst place to live on the planet. It's all relative," she



Photos from left to right: Midtown Scholar, Broad Street Market, Little Amps Coffee Roasters

said. She is used to hearing that kind of reporting, living in an urban setting most of her life. “I try to take a big-picture approach.”

Lewis also met nearly all of her neighbors during the whole moving process, so she instantly had a cache of people welcoming her to the city.

“There’s no better protection than a nosy neighbor,” said Jeff Couzens, a block south on Green Street. Couzens, a recently retired forensic accountant with the state Gaming Control Board, has lived in an elegant 1880s-era home on Green Street for more than a decade.

For the most part, the street is quiet, illuminated by window lights, streetlights and the warm buzz of the marquee of the Midtown Cinema across the street. People know each other; they shovel each other’s walkways in the snow. Aside from that, there is scant maintenance. “No lawn,” he says, sweeping his arm up and down the block dotted with decorative planters holding potted plants.

In the time he has lived in the home with his wife, Jo Devlin, a psychotherapist, he has seen many properties bought and fixed up. The introduction of the bookstore, a Harrisburg Area Community College satellite campus and new office space is making it even more of a desirable location. “When the new courthouse gets built, we’ll likely see another jump in real estate prices,” he said. Funding for the construction of the more than \$110 million federal courthouse, slated to be located at N. 6th and Reily Streets, is currently tied up in Congress.

A Philadelphia native, Couzens moved to the midstate for a job with the attorney general’s office. As an accountant, he knew it was smarter to buy than rent, especially with the home prices at the time. He was drawn to the city and all that it has to offer. By comparison to other major Pennsylvania cities, he finds Harrisburg clean, quiet and safe. “We live in a grand home,” he said. “And it’s cheap.”

There is plenty of street parking, and he has a garage behind the back patio. “We can get a car in there diagonally, even though it was built for a buggy.” It’s a small price to pay for a home with original hardwood floors, bay windows and a rustic brick wall adding character to carved woodwork and historic touches. The home was featured during a Harrisburg home tour in 2006.

A short walk leads Couzens and Devlin to the banks of the Susquehanna. The vista expands north and south. Couzens said that the most beautiful he has ever seen the river, ironically, was during the flood of September 2011. Their house, just blocks from the Susquehanna’s banks, is not in the floodplain. They decided to walk to the river to check out the rising waters. “The current rushed by, the whole city was in a fog, and we stared at the lights across the bridge. It was captivating,” he said.

Just around the corner, on the 200 block of Verbeke, is the home of David Bixler, a York native. Evenings after work as an IT analyst with the Pennsylvania Medical Society, he likes to take a run on the path along the river. He runs north out of Midtown if he wants a quiet scenic run; south if he wants to see other people and end up in the picturesque Shipoke neighborhood. He likes it best in the winter when the sun is setting and he can hear the ice shifting in the shallows of the water.

In summer, Bixler said there is a natural camaraderie among his neighbors. They take in baseball games on City Island, go to gallery walks



# THERE’S NO BETTER PROTECTION THAN A NOSY NEIGHBOR

together and informally hang out. They easily can walk downtown to the many bars and restaurants. “Where I grew up, everything was a 20- to 30-minute car ride away. I chose to buy a home in the city where I could easily get anywhere I wanted to go,” he said.

And sense of community is unrivaled, as neighbors pay attention to one another. Among his neighbors, the only crime incident he can remember in the last few years is one house that was broken into and, within 20 minutes, one of his neighbors phoned him to tell him about it.

Ray Davis, a local RE/MAX realtor for more than 20 years, said he doesn’t just sell Harrisburg, he lives it. He spent 14 years in Midtown and the last dozen years in Uptown. What draws him to Harrisburg is the same sense of community that most Midtown, Olde Uptown, Engleton and downtown dwellers feel. “There’s a vibrancy here created by diversity and energy. I would just melt in the suburbs,” he said laughing.

Harrisburg has had somewhat of a renaissance over the last two decades, with a lot of community involvement, not just with the homes, but socially. “Residents are going to local events. They hold neighborhood yard sales, spaghetti dinners, turkey dinners, and they are participating in interesting projects like painting the fireplugs. The list goes on,” he said.

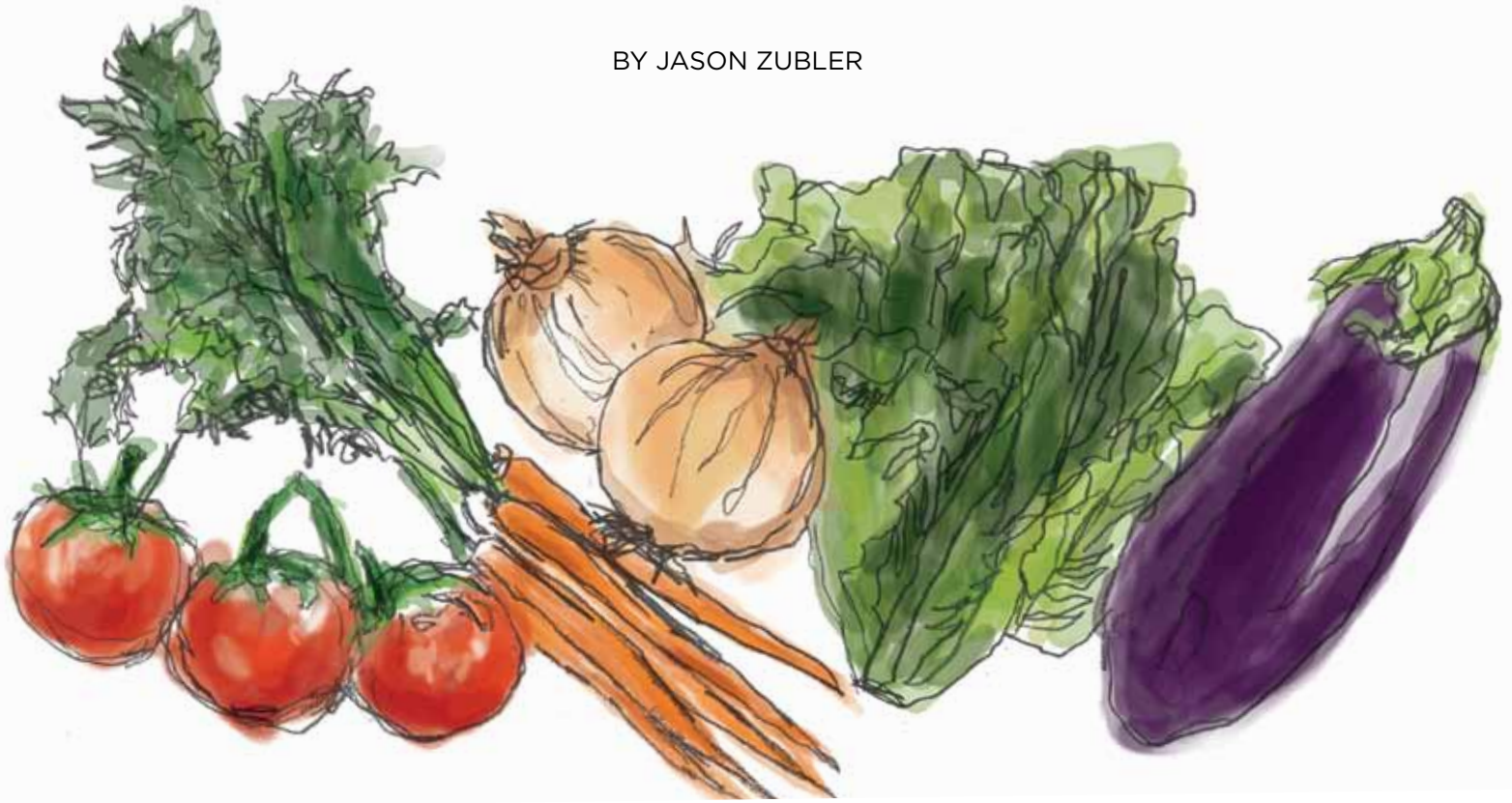
Lewis summed it up best, “It’s at the right stage to flourish. There is enough done for a strong framework. People are committed to their sense of place. It’s on the up and up as a city.” **B**



# GARDEN-HO!

*With controversy behind and spring ahead, Green Urban Initiative looks forward to the new growing season.*

BY JASON ZUBLER



It's been several months since the demise of the community garden located at N. 6th and Curtin streets, constructed by Green Urban Initiative (GUI) last spring. Since then, we've taken a step back to evaluate what went wrong, ramp up fundraising efforts and, most importantly, revisit the mission behind our community garden program. We've emerged from this time of reflection more focused and committed than ever to assist community members with the development of garden space within their neighborhoods. GUI's goal, through its community vegetable garden program, is to empower and provide assistance to urban residents interested in growing their own food. While the benefits to self-food production are many, those benefits are compounded even further when neighbors have the opportunity

**"GUI'S GOAL IS TO EMPOWER AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO URBAN RESIDENTS INTERESTED IN GROWING THEIR OWN FOOD."**

to grow their food alongside each other within their communities. Unfortunately, many barriers exist to the development and success of these community gardens.

In an effort to overcome these barriers, we've developed a garden partnership program in which communities and neighborhood organizations can request assistance with the development of gardens within their communities. The application for this program will be accessible through our website ([www.greenurban.org](http://www.greenurban.org)) in the near future. Through the program, GUI will review the applications and offer support to projects based on available resources. GUI is able to provide assistance with materials, volunteers, education, and plot management and land use agreements in exchange for a few dedicated members of the community, committed to the project.

We've been working hard over these last few months to rebound from a difficult situation, and we sincerely appreciate all of the overwhelming support that we've received both financially and through words of encouragement. However, we still need your help to continue to

provide support for urban gardens in Harrisburg.

We have big plans for 2013, including a goal to assist with the development of two additional community gardens, but in order to meet this goal we need to keep the support rolling. We have several fundraising opportunities planned for the coming months, including a half-price happy hour event at Suba through the month of March and yet another benefit at The Abbey Bar soon to be announced. If you'd like to make a direct contribution, please visit our website for more details. In addition, if you're interested in bringing garden space to your community and would like some assistance, please check out the partnership application on our website or email us at [gui@greenurban.org](mailto:gui@greenurban.org) for more information.

Stay tuned for additional opportunities to get involved this spring, and thank you for your continued support! **B**

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*Jason Zubler is president of Green Urban Initiative. More information about the organization can be found at [www.greenurban.org](http://www.greenurban.org).*

# FEEDING THE HUNGRY

*For 30 years, Downtown Daily Bread has helped those in need of a warm meal, a helping hand.*

BY MELISSA HUNSBERGER



**O**n an unseasonably warm day in January, four volunteers from Baughman Methodist United Church served lunch to 124 people at Downtown Daily Bread in Harrisburg. This year marks the organization's 30th anniversary, and there is much to celebrate, as well as opportunities for further growth.

Originally, the soup kitchen grew out of an economic need within the city. Folks in the community began visiting The Pine Street Presbyterian Church seeking assistance, and the pastor at the time, Dr. Fred Anderson, along with the mission committee and an associate pastor, decided that they needed to do something more to help those in need. So, they began offering them lunch, and, in March 1983, Downtown Daily Bread was born.

In the beginning, volunteers cooked lunch a few times a week for 20 to 25 people. Presently, Downtown Daily Bread, on average,

provides lunch to nearly 120 people every day of the week, including holidays. On the weekends, that number can be as high as 150. Even during Superstorm Sandy, Downtown Daily Bread remained open, serving 165 people with a hot meal. Over the past 17 years, the organization has only closed the kitchen once due to a snowstorm that forced the entire city to practically shut down.

Elaine Strokoff, executive director of Downtown Daily Bread, is proud of what the organization

has been able to accomplish.

"It's important for us to get the word out to the public that we are here," she said. "We've been here for 30 years, and we probably do more in a small space and with a small budget than people realize."

Annually, Downtown Daily Bread serves around 40,500 people, but it doesn't stop with lunch. It also offers showers, clothing, lockers, use of telephones and haircuts. Through a partnership with the HACC School of Nursing and Messiah College School of Nursing, clients receive health checks and basic screenings by nurses who visit every other week. In addition, Downtown Daily Bread and the Dauphin County Mental Health system have joined together to provide services to clients who face mental health issues.

In collaboration with the YWCA, Downtown Daily Bread offers transportation services to

clients who have jobs that are not on a bus route or for folks that have irregular schedules. According to Strokoff, this isn't your average soup kitchen.

"I think what we have in the community is unique because we do so much under one roof, and we collaborate with so many other organizations that we touch a lot of lives in a lot of different ways," she said.

There are no eligibility requirements and no cost for any of the services provided.

"Anyone who is hungry can come and eat," said Strokoff, who has been with the organization for 17 years.

She thought she would only stick around for a year or two and then move onto something else, but her need to fight for the underdog and her strong belief in equality made the work worth it.

"It's very gratifying. It's hard work. It's very, very hard work, but it is gratifying," she said.

Because of this effort, Downtown Daily Bread has evolved over the past 30 years. It now employs a full-time cook and a counselor and engages a number of volunteers. Today, the organization is supported by 19 different churches and synagogues throughout the area.

According to Strokoff, such community collaboration is what has allowed Downtown Daily Bread to continue its work.

"We are very grateful to businesses and other organizations in the area that partner with us because we feel that this is a community-wide effort," she said.

Since 2005, Highmark Blue Shield has supported Downtown Daily Bread through a grant. Highmark supports a number of soup kitchens, and what impressed the company most about Downtown Daily Bread is that it addresses more than just hunger.

"Downtown Daily Bread not only provides meals, but also other services, and we really like that about their program," said Susan Hubley, director of community affairs. **B**

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*Downtown Daily Bread is located at 234 South St. in Harrisburg. Visit the organization's website at [www.DowntownDailyBread.com](http://www.DowntownDailyBread.com) to learn more about volunteering or to make a donation.*

**"ANNUALLY, DOWNTOWN DAILY BREAD SERVES AROUND 40,500 PEOPLE, BUT IT DOESN'T STOP WITH LUNCH."**





## NEWSMAKER INTERVIEW: PATTY KIM

*Sinkholes to Solvency:  
The challenges are many for  
the new state representative.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

In January, former Harrisburg City Councilwoman Patty Kim became the new representative for 103rd House district, which includes Harrisburg, Steelton, Highspire and a part of Swatara Township. She replaced Ron Buxton, who served in the post for 20 years. A few weeks into her new job, I stopped by her office in the Capitol complex to ask her how it's going.

*Q. Going from City Hall to the statehouse is a big move, not geographically, but in every other way. How has the adjustment gone for you professionally?*

I've always had a passion to serve my residents. On City Council, I pretty much did it myself, taken the calls, responded to them, which was fine. But, now that I'm at the state and have the staff and resources from the caucus, whether it be research or communications help, it's just been pretty amazing to have the tools that I can, at my convenience, use to help constituents with whatever state issues they may have. So it's just been a refreshing change.

*Q. What problems are on the top of your priority list as far as importance and issues that you, in this position, can actually do something about?*

Since I started, the number one request has been jobs, people looking for jobs. I think the recession hit us late, but we're still lingering, and there are a lot of people out there suffering. So, I'm actually putting out legislation—I'm working with Rep. Ron Waters (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) on this bill for ex-offenders, ex-offenders who committed a non-violent crime or a victimless crime who did their time and once they're out, if they can prove a seven-year clean record, they're able to go to a judge and to request for expungement. I think there are a number of people in my district who have charges that they can't get rid of who are suffering and can't get good-paying jobs. That just feeds into the poverty cycle. So, that's jobs, keeping the tax base healthy, making sure education will be funded adequately after this budget to make sure that Gov. Corbett doesn't put all the money into the pensions, but to have that money be seen, in effect, in the classrooms. And, obviously, with the city's crisis, I want to see how I can be helpful at the state level, instead of at the City Council level, meeting with the receiver, talking with the attorneys, to make sure we're going in the right direction.

*Q. How about the issue of transportation funding, especially given the poor quality of Harrisburg's streets and the associated utility issues?*

A lot of us in the legislature are so eager to see this transportation bill that we've been waiting for almost two years now. I think the commission did a great job in making the recommendations, but now we need to see it and we need to work on it. The governor needs Democratic support for it, so I definitely want to push for emergency sinkhole repair funding. We're not the only community suffering from roads that have been neglected for so many years. Many municipalities across the state are just struggling to pay the bills let alone do maintenance work on roads. So, we definitely need to have money earmarked for that situation, because it's an emergency situation, it's a public safety issue that we need to address.

*Q. Many third class cities are suffering, not just Harrisburg. Do you have any ideas on how they might be made financially viable?*

So, there have been about 30 third class cities in Act 47, maybe seven have come out. And when a municipality is in Act 47, they have some tools, like a commuter tax, that they can use. Why do we give them the tools when they're already in Act 47? We should have them available before they're distressed and need help. I would love to provide tools, whether it's the commuter tax or a drink tax, that the legislature doesn't have to approve. Give those tools to third class cities and let them pick and choose what they think is best for their communities to raise revenue because obviously they're all having problems with a shrinking tax base and rising costs. All they can do right now is raise property taxes. Give them other tools that they can use to raise taxes because everyone is maxed out when it comes to property taxes. Also, within the Local Government Committee, Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton County) is

going to talk with me specifically on Act 47 reform, because I've had that front row seat, and find out what works and doesn't work. I think Act 47 needs a lot of work to be effective.

***Q. What doesn't work, in your opinion?***

Like I just said, the core problems are a shrinking tax base and rising costs. Nothing in Act 47 addresses those two issues that all municipalities across the state are dealing with. So, they can give us consultants, that's great. They can tell us how to reduce costs, that's great. But it's not solving the core problems that we're all experiencing.

***Q. Let's turn to the issue of the receiver, which was a very controversial piece of legislation when it was enacted. How do you think it's gone so far?***

I was never in favor of a receiver and the concept of the state coming in. But, learning in more detail of the negotiations that are happening, whether it be the leasing of an asset or the union situation, I don't think the current city administration would have been able to do that. So, in the end, I think it was more beneficial for the experts to do what they do best than to have our city administration do something that was out of their element. I'm not knocking them, but they're in government. They're not in leasing major assets of the city. So, I'm OK with it now.

***Q. One of the surprises I've experienced is that I thought the receiver would have a heavier hand than what I'm seeing.***

Right. [State Sen.] Rob Teplitz and I were going back and forth trying to get some money for the sinkholes, and the receiver said, "Look, it's the city administration that needs to fill out the forms because they're doing the day-to-day work. We're not going to do that right now." So, yeah, he's really hands-off when it comes to day-to-day administrative work.

***Q. The receiver position expires at the end of the year. Do you have any thoughts on whether it should be retained?***

I'd like to see what happens by the summertime. There are hints that things may be completed soon, and I want to see if that's true and make my decision after that.

***Q. No matter what happens with the sale or leasing of the assets, there still will be a lot of work to do after expiration of the receiver's term. Do you think there will be any possibility of additional guidance or supervision from the state, even if the receiver legislation is not renewed?***

DCED [Department of Community and Economic Development] seems to have a vested interest in us, whether it be [DCED official] Fred Reddig or some of the other guys on his team. I think there will be a transition in place—I'm going to make sure there is a smooth transition in place from the receiver back to the city taking on all the responsibilities. So that is one of my goals—that there's a smooth transition.

***Q. Do you think there's any possibility of additional revenue sources, like a commuter tax, to benefit Harrisburg once the receiver position expires?***

Rep. Freeman wants to reintroduce his bill that gives more support via revenue to cities that have a high percentage of tax-exempt properties. To give those cities extra support because we just can't survive with our tax base currently. So, I'm definitely looking at legislation that may be helpful. Looking at a drink tax—I had research done on that to see the pros and cons, to see if that would be beneficial to Harrisburg. I'm not certain. With the commuter tax, I'm not convinced that's the best way to go, especially having to raise our EIT [earned income tax] one more time in order to receive enough revenue. I think it's too much on our tax base.

***Q: Do you support the investigation by the legislature into the incinerator situation or is there's something else you'd like to see that is different from what has been happening on the Senate side?***

I'm very supportive of the legislation that the Senate brought forth after the hearings. And before Attorney General [Kathleen] Kane won, I did ask her to look into Harrisburg's incinerator problems to see if she could do any

investigative work, and I will definitely follow up on that. We need to get to the bottom of it and make sure we see if there's anything that we can do in court. I doubt we'll get millions of dollars from it, but we need closure. I think the taxpayers, residents, felt like they were cheated. And I do think people made some really bad decisions on behalf of the taxpayers, and we just need to open it up, investigate and, if anyone's convicted, great. If not, great, close it. We need to move on, but we need to have closure first.

***Q. Of course, there's not only a receiver for the city, but the school board is also under state supervision. Having lived in Harrisburg for such a long time, what do you feel went so wrong?***

The bottom line: we spent way too much than we could afford and kicked the can down the road when it came to payments. I mean, John Harris High School is a beautiful building, but could we really afford it? The answer is no. So, we're paying a lot of bond payments on that. I think the school board, the superintendent, have looked at all different kinds of ways to cut, but it's just not enough. I think the recovery officer is looking at creative ways so we can make payment and stay afloat, but I'm not too positive it's going to be our remedy or solution.

***Q. Your predecessor, Ron Buxton, was in this position quite awhile. Should constituents expect any differences as far as how you handle the job?***

I like to think that I am going to be more accessible to residents. I just had my district office open house to let people know where I am. If they need help, I have an office Monday through Friday open. I'm looking at becoming more of a transparent legislator. I'm going to be posting my expenses online quarterly, which is different from my predecessor. I'm not going to be collecting per diems. I'm not going to be collecting mileage either—being extremely frugal with the allowance that I have. I'm not accepting COLAs [cost of living adjustments]. I'm actually introducing legislation to eliminate COLAs for judges, legislators and the governor. After the pay raises and Bonusgate, I think people are desperate to have honest legislators who do their job and don't feel they're entitled to all this. This is the people's work. It's not an entitlement.

***Q. Looking back at your time on City Council, are there any things you wish you had done differently or that you could have done that you weren't able to?***

My seven years on council were very difficult. It felt like once I started, that's when everything began to fall apart. So, every decision, it felt like a do-or-die situation and that it would impact residents in a big way if I voted yes or no. It was a very difficult time for me. But, looking back now, it was so beneficial to help me with my position right now, whether learning how to better serve residents, whether looking at legislation, enduring pressure. But, now that I'm out of it, I'm just very grateful for the experience. It's making this job just a little bit easier because I've been through the mill.

***Q. If you had all the candidates who are running for City Council around this table, what advice would you give them?***

You can't take the job lightly. It's a part-time position, but it really isn't a part-time position. It's all-consuming. You have to be quick on your feet. You have to care deeply about your residents, keep them in mind. But, at the same time, keep an open mind on your options and what's best for your people. It's a very rewarding position if you give it your all. Or it can just be a major headache, interrupting family life, what not. You have to have a passion for it or it will be a waste of time. I would love to have a home charter rule where a City Council person could not run for mayor until about a year after they're done with their term. I really think that, whether it be from the Reed era to the Thompson era, when council members look to be in that mayoral position, it changes the way they vote on things. If they want the mayor to look bad, they'll vote differently. If they want to do what's best for the city, they will vote differently. I really think that hurt us in the past eight years. **B**

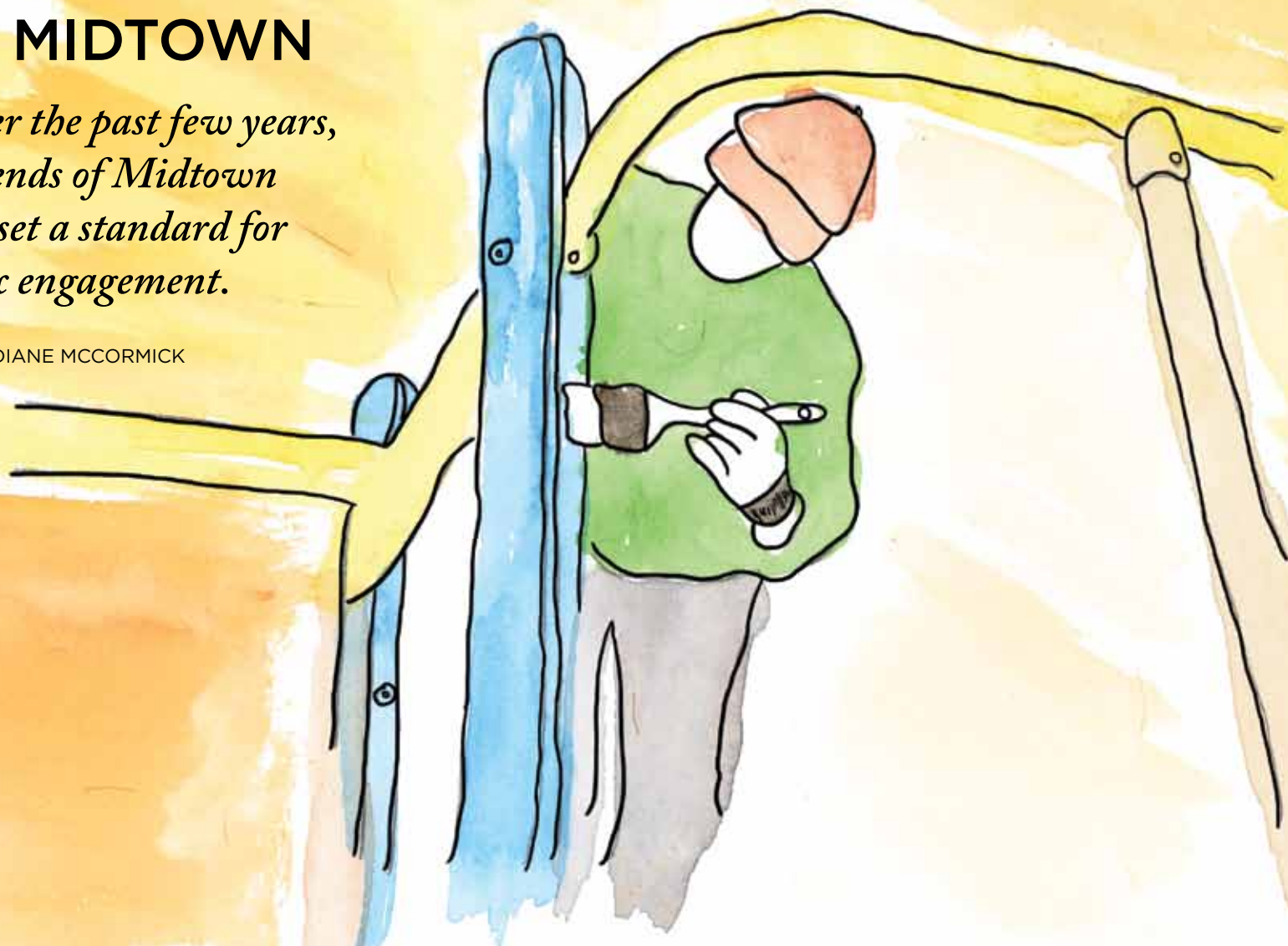
\*This interview was edited for length.



# YOUR FRIEND IN MIDTOWN

*Over the past few years, Friends of Midtown has set a standard for civic engagement.*

BY M. DIANE MCCORMICK



Jamie Lemon grew up in rural West Virginia but made urban planning her career. Before moving from Cincinnati to Harrisburg in 2012, she googled a question: “Where do young people live in Harrisburg?”

“Midtown” appeared on her search screen, and it fit the bill for her “big three”—walkability, parks and culture. She chose those blocks of charm and mixed reputation spanning from Forster to Maclay streets. Within six months, she was co-chairing the events committee for Friends of Midtown.

“It’s so nice to know your neighbors and feel a sense of community,” she said.

In a city where some community groups barely peek out of their foxholes, Friends of Midtown is a visible symbol of neighbors joining forces to improve livability, fight crime and advocate for city living.

Friends of Midtown has helped re-ignite more than 100 street lights. Members put down pine bark at playgrounds—“something good for the kids,” said Beautification Committee Co-chair Eileen Carson—and organize yard sales, a Halloween bash at Broad Street Market and other events. The group contributes to 3rd in The Burg, the third-Friday art-walk of businesses, restaurants and galleries.

All that on a meager \$4,900 budget garnered from donations and 200 memberships.

Notably, Friends responded to rising crime by creating foot patrols; it’s a striking sight, residents policing the streets in matching shirts, breaking the gloom of night with their flashlight beams. That kind of activism “catches on,” said Ryan Stark, the Citizens Safety chair.

“Residents of this neighborhood decided, ‘I am tired of staying in my house. I am tired of coming home every afternoon and locking my door and not getting out into my community,’” said Stark. “Just our presence in the community, I think, has created a lot of goodwill.”

This year, Friends of Midtown hopes to increase membership, continue spreading the word about Midtown’s residential and business advantages and stage an event every month. In February, for instance, the group hosted its first-ever Midtown Business Meet-up to discuss ideas on how to improve the small business climate in Midtown.

Also, to halt the flight of young families from the city, the group is planning to boost involvement in neighborhood schools, perhaps through such efforts as mentoring and garden planting, said President Shawn Westhafer.

“The best way to be able to sustain a city is to keep its residents and attract new ones,” he said. “If they’re able to leave, too many do. We want to make Midtown that place where people come and stay.”

Westhafer credited Don Barnett, president from 2010 through 2012, with reviving the group. Barnett founded the foot patrols and encouraged hands-on involvement to beautify and brighten the neighborhood. He led the group’s successful advocacy for siting a new federal courthouse in Midtown instead of downtown Harrisburg.

“That was the highlight of my presidency,” he said.

Marissa Hockenberry sees a neighborhood and city “on an upward curve.” She’s helping Friends of Midtown team with the Green Urban Initiative to garden up the neighborhood. Like Lemon, she deliberately chose to live in Midtown because of Friends of Midtown.

“I ended up finding people who are invested, that care about where they live, and that’s how I knew I found my niche,” she said. “We all have different backgrounds, but we all bring something.” **E**

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*To get involved, visit [www.friendsofmidtown.org](http://www.friendsofmidtown.org).*



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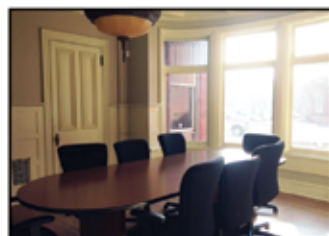
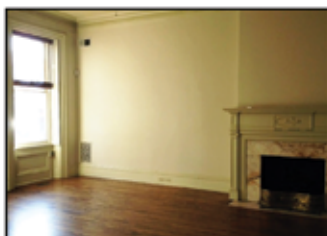


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## PLANNING SAM

*New job, new building, new mission.  
Museum director Laurene Buckley has challenges piled high.*

BY LORI M. MYERS

Laurene Buckley has only been here in the midstate for a short time but is already impressed with her new Harrisburg surroundings—the restaurants, the life along the river, the old buildings, the people who have given her a warm welcome as she takes the helm of the Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) as its new executive director. She’s also impressed with SAM’s supportive and bright staff who possess professionalism and an eagerness to move forward.

“The offer from SAM was most exciting,” said Buckley, who hails from Illinois and holds a doctorate in art history and museum studies from the City University of New York “I like challenges.”

Those “challenges” show in Buckley’s resume as she worked her way up the “museum and teaching chain” as she calls it.

Her varied job history included being museum director at several art galleries and museums, chief curator, registrar at seven public and university museums, peer reviewer for the American Association of Museums, art advisor/consultant and author. After getting an undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois, her first job was as an assistant to the assistant registrar at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Not bad for someone who was the only artist in her family but then got hooked early on with art history and museum work.

Buckley, who moved to Harrisburg from Manhattan, was chosen for SAM’s executive director position from more than 30 applicants who hailed from all over the country. Two of SAM’s board members said it was an easy choice.

“She had all the credentials in the world,” said Doug Neidich, CEO of GreenWorks Development in Harrisburg. “She had an arts understanding and a great network in the arts.”

Andrew J. Giorgione, an attorney with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney in Harrisburg, applauds Buckley’s decision to live in Midtown, close to SAM’s future home.

“That shows her understanding of the commitment we were seeking from the executive director of what we are trying to do,” said Giorgione.

According to Giorgione, Pennsylvania is one of only four states that does not have a dedicated art museum in its capital city. All of that will change as Buckley, the board and the museum’s staff plan for a move from its present Strawberry Square offices to the historic Keystone Bank Building at N. 3rd and Calder streets in Midtown. That move has been helped along by a capital campaign that has benefited from major support from the state and private donors. Final design work for the location has commenced, and site preparation, including some demolition, will begin this month. Construction is slated to start in September.

“Depending on the construction timeframe set forth in the bid response, we hope to be open with our first exhibit in the fall of 2014,” said Giorgione. “During this time, the capital campaign will continue the purpose of creating a sustainable endowment for the museum.”

Until the new site—complete with 5,000 square feet of gallery space, a catering kitchen, an expanded shop and space for a future café—is ready for move-in, SAM has been using off-site locations for exhibits. Currently, the State Museum is featuring “Course and Discourse: An Exhibition of Professor and Student Artwork” until May 5. An artist reception will be held on Friday, March 15.

“We continue to nurture our regional artists and build excitement toward the shows that will open the new museum,” Buckley said. “It’s a secret right now, but watch for announcements as we research and develop some spectacular exhibitions for the new space.”

Buckley admits that this is now a time of intense transition from a small to medium-sized museum, along with the renovation of an old bank building that will result in a “spectacular event space” and central Pennsylvania’s state-of-the-art exhibiting institution.

“I’m hoping this will be a showcase for the art of all the museums in the state with our location in the capital city,” she said. **B**





## WHERE GOVERNORS LIVED

*The chief executive's residence has changed many times.*

BY JASON WILSON

**H**arrisburg has been the state capital since 1812, but Pennsylvania's governors have only had an official residence for a portion of the last 200 years.

From Gov. Snyder through Gov. Pollock, Pennsylvania's chief executive did not have "official" living quarters in Harrisburg and would instead rent rooms or apartments in the city from which to conduct business. In 1858, the state first appropriated \$11,000 for the purchase and furnishing of a residence for the governor. This house, originally located at S. 2nd and Chestnut streets, was used until 1864 when a house was purchased at 311 N. Front St. and converted into a mansion.

Governor John White Geary added a second identical house and also a false façade, which made the mansion appear as one large home. By the 1880s, the term "Keystone Hall" was used to describe the governor's official residence. During the 19th century, "Keystone Hall" served as both residence and office for the governor and his staff, as there was no official area for the governor in the old Hills Capitol.

Over time, the mansion underwent numerous renovations and additions. In 1894 with the completion of the Executive, Library and Museum Building, future governors finally had an official office and reception room. In 1906 with the completion of the current Capitol, the governor's offices were moved to the second floor of the building's south wing, while "Keystone Hall" still served as the official residence. Governors also began using a converted summer home at Fort Indiantown Gap (now the lieutenant governor's residence).

By the late 1940s, it was apparent that "Keystone Hall" was becoming a bit dated and plans were made to build a new mansion, but World War II halted construction. After the war, the summer residence at Indiantown Gap was used as the primary residence until the current Georgian-style home was completed. Designed by architect George Ewing, the building occupies 28,600 square feet and has 32 rooms. It was completed in 1968 and has served eight governors since that time. The old mansion at 311 N. Front St. was demolished in the early 1960s. **B**

*Jason Wilson is a research historian for the Capitol Preservation Committee.*



## HISTORIC HARRISBURG'S THEN & NOW

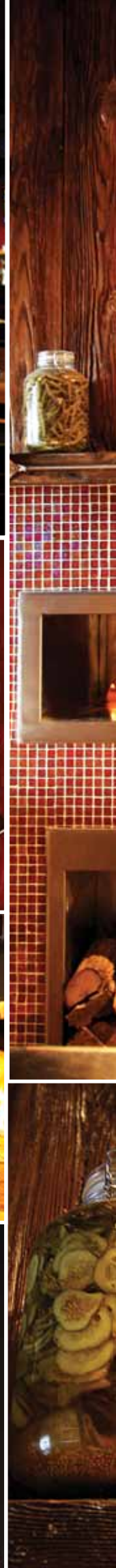
The Elephantine Apartments have graced the corner of N. Front and Forster streets since 1880, as grand buildings made their way out of downtown and up Front Street during the city's Industrial Age boom. The "then" photo was taken soon after construction, and the background shows a city taking shape around it. The 12-unit building is still recognizable today, though a Front Street entrance and deck was added long ago, partially destroying and blocking the beautiful multi-pane windows at the side. The building's grandeur was further eroded as once-quiet Forster Street was widened to a six-lane highway in the 1950s after construction of the Harvey Taylor Bridge, leaving the large, 8,800-square-foot building looking strangely misplaced in its surroundings. Nonetheless, the Elephantine should be considered a survivor as so many period buildings along Forster Street have been razed or fallen into disrepair. **B**

*Photo credit (for "then" photo): Historic Harrisburg Association*





67. MAWAYUNK SKULL PUNCH 6.7%  
68. ELYSIAN IMMORTAL IPA 6.2%  
69. ELYSIAN MENS ROOM RED 5.6%  
70. HIGH POINT WINTER WHEAT 9.5%  
71. OTTER CREEK RUSSIAN IMPERIAL 10.6%  
72. DUCLAW SWEET BABY JESUS 6.5%  
73. WOLAVERS OATMEAL STOUT 5.9%  
74. CLOWN SHOES TRAMP STAMP 7.0%







# CRAFTING A BEER PALACE

*Judd Goodman transformed a troubled nightclub into Federal Taphouse, pleasing both beer lovers and preservationists.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

One-hundred taps is the calling card of the newly minted Federal Taphouse. Yet it's more than just glitzy, emerging craft beers like Roy Pitz's Smoked Lager or Anderson Valley's Hop Ottin (for you IPA connoisseurs). Judd Goodman, the long-time owner of this building, constructed his restaurant/bar to provide a catch-all spot for your average central Pennsylvania denizen.

"You can come here in your Harley or your limousine. Your sweat pants or your suit," says Goodman.

The menu nods toward this inclusive gesture. You can feast on poutine, an uppity term for fries with cheese and gravy, or choose from an array of artisan, wood-fired pizza, as simple as pepperoni or as ornate as the duck confit with caramelized onions, fig and arugula. The menu takes food that might sound like your usual pub grub (pizza, burgers, sandwiches), but heaps praise on it.

This could not be done without the talents of Robert Dacko, the executive chef. Learning his trade at Tangerine and Butcher and Singer—Stephen Starr restaurants in Philadelphia—Dacko came over from Home 231 to assert his culinary skills. Goodman said that Dacko "is easily the most acclaimed chef in our market."

This commendation might raise a few knives among chefs in the area. Nevertheless, he does command respect in finding the best local purveyors—purchasing mushrooms in Kennett Square is one example—and utilizing these products, making everything from scratch, such as the mustard for the house-made soft pretzel.

While the food entices, so does the building's design, which creates a distinctive but open feel. Jay A. Blackwell of By Design blueprinted the general plan, and Goodman handled the finishes, marking him as a creative, meticulous planner.

His favorite feature is the "reclaimed wood around the brick-oven." The recessed shelf with chopped wood underneath highlights this side of the room. Toward the rear of the main dining area, the backside of a two-top table is set in like an alcove, creating an intimate seating arrangement. The cork-lined foyer, the inlaid tiles of the oven and the neatly printed 100 beers on a chalkboard wall are adornments that leave an imprint on the architecture.

Goodman wanted to "have that brewery feel but an exhibition kitchen with a clean look." He pulled that off without sacrificing space or flow, a tough food industry procedure.

Goodman's affair with the restaurant industry began in State College. He then went on to manage a Bannigan's in Baltimore and an Olde World Cheese Shop in Florida. He came back home to open up JT

Crockenberry's and the Dragonfly Nightclub.

He says he blames no one for the maligning of the Dragonfly, the former business in this building that closed last year after several well-publicized violent incidents involving patrons. But he felt "the prudent thing was to be part of the solution, rather than part of the problem."

A complete exterior renovation of the historic bank building was definitely part of the solution, which ingratiated Goodman with the city's preservation community. Dingy white paint was stripped and the original red brick exposed and restored. Bricked-up doors and windows were opened, giving the new restaurant a better street presence and a welcoming feel.

Goodman said he does miss the limited hours of the Dragonfly, as he now works up to 100 hours a week.

All signs point to more long days for Goodman. Come spring, 68 seats will be added on the patio to expand the current capacity of 120. In addition, the restaurant just added a brunch menu, and a second Federal Taphouse location is set to open in Lancaster in a few months.

Then there's Fedlive, the 20,000-square-foot entertainment venue on the second floor. The Gadd Agency books the acts and is bringing in musicians like Jenny Owen Youngs, an indie folk rocker who has supported larger names like Regina Spektor and Aimee Mann, and Here Comes the Mummies, a Funk/R&B band known for dressing in white bandaged attire. With a varied line-up, Goodman hopes to attract a diverse listening crowd.

The enterprising Goodman understands the larger picture, but he's most proud that the "details that we are putting into action are working." Only a person with a Type A personality would "get the biggest rush" over weedy processes like server flow, how the kitchen operates and serving beer in the appropriate glasses.

On a sleepy Wednesday night in Harrisburg, the bar was bustling with young adults, suited professionals and sports watchers. Goodman manned the corner of the bar talking with customers, and, at 9:30 p.m., he walked around to complete the simple act of dimming the lights. This owner gets the details right, and, to the restaurant-goer, this makes the experience leisurely and worth a second time around. **B**

*The Federal Taphouse, 234 2nd St., Harrisburg.  
Restaurant hours: Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
Sunday Brunch: 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
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# TUSCAN COMFORT

*On a chilly March day, warm yourself with soup from Siena.*

By Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

Going to Italy with our friends, Ron and Cindy—who lived there for several years—is special because we find ourselves in places we might not have chosen to visit. Take our trip in the spring of 2012. We traveled to Siena, one of many medieval towns nestled in the Tuscan hills.

I knew little about Siena except that there was a St. Catherine from there (thank you, Catholic school). I also knew Siena was famous for its Christmas cake, panforte, a dense confection stuffed with almonds and torrone, the sweet nougat candy eaten mostly at Easter time (and loved by my late father).

It was a cool and cloudy May day when we visited this charming little town. Or is it a small city? Siena sits high on a hill surrounded by fortress-like walls, its charms hidden from view. I was longing for the warm Tuscan sun I had dreamt about.

We walked the narrow cobblestone streets and window-shopped the beautiful clothing stores, bakeries and wine bars. Ron said we had to see the Piazza del Campo near the ancient Town Hall. It is a wide, open space surrounded by restaurants and shops. He explained that, in the summer, this huge piazza hosts a bareback horse race that draws enormous crowds. It's the NASCAR of Tuscany and probably not a good time for tourists to visit.

But the main reason for our trip to Siena was to have lunch at a little place called Hosterio il Carroccio. We trudged uphill on narrow and winding streets to find it. This bustling bistro (or osteria) is famous for its warming soup known as ribollita, which stands for re-boiled or twice cooked. Accompanied by a carafe of white house wine and peasant bread, it was a lunch to remember.

When I came home, I searched all my cookbooks for a recipe for ribollita and learned that, like minestrone, the variations are endless. Some versions call for cabbage and others for black kale. The authentic recipes always use dried beans that must be soaked first and then cooked slowly for a long time. Some cooks add chopped tomatoes, but often only a hint of tomato comes from tomato paste. Giada De Laurentis adds pasta, but some might say: "That's so California."

The recipe below is a hybrid from the many I studied when preparing for this column. I am cheating a little by using canned beans, but really you will find them just as good. This soup would be perfect for a chilly March day when spring seems so very far away. **B**







# → RIBOLLITA ←

*March can be a gray and damp month—my least favorite—and Italy seems so far away. But try this comforting soup on a weekend when you have a little cooking time. Don't forget a chilled white wine and maybe some fruit and cheese for dessert. You can have your own osteria and a Sunday in Siena!*

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 1 celery rib with leaves, chopped
- 1 carrot, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 leeks (white part only)
- 6 cups shredded cabbage
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 1 sprig fresh thyme
- 4 cups low sodium vegetable broth
- 1 15-ounce can cannellini beans (rinsed and drained)
- 2 cups firm, country Italian bread (cut into ½-inch cubes)

- In a soup pot or Dutch oven, sauté celery, carrot, onion and garlic olive oil over medium or medium low heat until softened.
- Add leeks and shredded cabbage, and sauté about 10 to 15 minutes until softened. Cover partially and adjust the heat to avoid burning.
- When all the vegetables are soft and golden in color, add tomato paste, rosemary and thyme. Stir well.
- Add vegetable broth and bring the mixture to a boil. Reduce heat so that the soup simmers slowly. Cook uncovered for about 40 minutes.
- Add the cannellini beans and bread cubes, and bring the soup back to a gentle boil and cook until nice and thick.
- When the soup is ready to be served, taste for salt and pepper and ladle into shallow bowls. Drizzle with good green olive oil.

## A FEW VARIATIONS:

- Add a cup of chopped bacon or pancetta to the carrot, celery and onion mix and sauté along with them.
- Use chicken or beef broth instead of vegetable.
- Substitute chopped kale for the cabbage or chopped canned tomatoes for the paste.
- Our friend, Cindy, insists that no grated cheese be sprinkled on this soup, only virgin olive oil (but who's looking?).



### ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER

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





## ANY PORT IN A STORM

*A fortified wine can help calm  
the turmoil of March weather.*

BY STEVE JULIANA

The major holidays are behind us. Valentine's Day, with its enduring tradition of sparkling wine, has come and gone. What would be the perfect quaff on a raw night in early spring? The answer is in fortified wines. Not those with extra vitamins, but luscious liquids manipulated in a way that can bring real joy to the soul when the weather conspires against us.

Port wine is known throughout the world and has been with us since the early 1800s. All ports come from the Douro River valley in Portugal, where the grapes are grown on terraced hillsides along the stream. At harvest time, the grapes are cut from the steep slopes and taken to the press-houses where the crushing is done.

Tradition holds that the fruit was placed in open granite bins called "lagars," where barefoot workers locked arms and squeezed out the juice. The more modern method is machine crushing and fermentation in concrete tanks. In order to stop fermentation, the wine is run into barrels that contain a clear brandy. This stops the wine from progressing any further. The result is a sweet, high-alcohol drink that is unlike any other grape wine.

The youngest of these is the ruby port. Aged in wood for two years, it is very red and light. Easy drinking and sweet, it is a good place to start.

Next in designation are the tawny ports. Due to extra barrel aging, they lose the garnet hues of the younger rubies. What they gain is elegance and

balance. Instead of the fruity sweetness that the young wines possess, the flavors are more nut-like and the hints of caramel pour forth. Done in many styles from luscious to dry and refined, this is, in my opinion, where port tasting really starts.

The best wines will have an indication of age on the label. Usually the older, the better. The finest ports are the ones bottled in a "declared" vintage. These wines are when the shippers decide that the year is an extraordinary one and the wines are especially fine. This is done on an individual basis

and not everyone jumps on board. Microclimates abound in the Douro, and each "house" has its own style and traditions. These wines are exceptionally long-lived with the

tradition of buying a bottle at baptism for the child's wedding as part of port lore.

While waiting for the wine between the tawnies and the declared vintages, there are the late-bottled vintages. These are a bit of a compromise, with more richness than the tawnies but not quite the balance and refinement of the declared vintages. The wine is lighter than the latter but should have both vintage and bottling dates on the label.

Port wine is a wonderful quaff brought about by centuries of British tradition and the manipulation of natural processes. In this weather, it's a gem to seek. **B**

*Keep Sipping, Steve*

*Photos: Feature the port selection at Mangia Qui, 272 North St., Harrisburg. [www.mangiaqui.com](http://www.mangiaqui.com)*



# BIRD'S GOTTA BAKE

*The Yellow Bird Café:*

*It takes more than just putting a bird on it.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

Driving to Maine provides plenty of time to brainstorm restaurant names. Stephanie Perry wrote down a list of words for her husband and business partner, Ammon. She wanted something friendly and welcoming without resorting to “The Friendly Café.” The Yellow Bird was the portmanteau that Ammon penned—it proved the winner.

Stephanie has start-up fever, proving the name aligns with its owner’s personality—upbeat and personable. First, she shows the chromed-out industrial kitchen, a small but adequate space to cook up their menu comprised of paninis, wraps, soups and salads. The baker’s oven is their cherished appliance.

Smiling and ever affable, sitting in the alcove facing street-side, Stephanie says that Ammon “started concentrating on making bread about four years ago.” Whereas Ammon is the more recipe-structured consort, Stephanie, a mash-up artist in the kitchen “likes to work with three recipes” and tries to elegantly “combine them all.”

Their contrasting kitchen personalities bleed into their vocations. For the purposes of this enterprise, they complement one another perfectly. Stephanie went down the marketing/design path, working for the Neiman Group and most recently at Messiah College.

“It works out so great. I did all the designing: the menus, the signage and the interior,” she said.

The simple, well-designed branding and the recipe creation is Stephanie’s jam. Ammon is the hard-nosed handyman.

With a tool belt and headlamp strapped on, he is testing out the water line today, putting on the finishing touches to the interior in preparation for a soft opening during February’s 3rd in The Burg. He also built all the tables and cabinetry work, while contributing a few of his pen-and-ink drawings to the wall.

The mix of contemporary and retro fixtures and furniture, combined with the refinished wainscoting, present an “old house charm” says Stephanie. They did it right—meet the modish café, the 21st century version of the diner. Nothing feels gaudy or out of place, but one print stands out across from the checkout counter. Turns out these two have a sense of humor.

The indie crowd may mock the Yellow Bird name for the “put a bird on it” “Portlandia” reference, but hold the snickers because the Perrys wink at this lark. In three separate prints set in one, the words “she believed she could”/“put a bird on it”/“you must open your wings if you want to fly.” This is a schmaltzy inside joke and should be well received by those in-the-know.

Serving both breakfast and lunch, they will offer an array of muffins, breakfast sandwiches, soup, salad, sandwiches, wraps and paninis—all made from scratch. They procure coffee from local roaster, Little Amps, and even received a lesson from Amps’ owner Aaron Carlson on proper brewing techniques.

They will be open late for Pizza Friday Nights, as they’ve dubbed it, and Sunday brunch—a growing trend here in the capital city—will feature a few handpicked items off the menu.

“I’ve wanted to open a café since college,” said Stephanie, “but I never really thought about it being a reality.”

Good luck Perry duo. Now it is. **B**

*The Yellow Bird Café, 1320 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
Tuesday to Thursday, Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.;  
Sunday Brunch: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
yellowbird-cafe.com | yellowbirdcafe.hbg@gmail.com | (717) 635-8991*







# LITTLE SLICE OF NEW YORK

*Combine the Big Apple with Mechanicsburg, and what do you get? The Metropolis Collective.*

BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER



When Danielle Charette and Richard Reilly met in New York, it was a creative match made in heaven.

Reilly spent his days working at the prestigious Adelson Gallery in Manhattan and his nights performing as a rock musician. Charette spent her time honing her skills as a painter and artist, while working with art galleries to exhibit her works nationwide.

As the years passed, the husband and wife team began yearning for a slower pace of life, away from the hustle and bustle of New York. For Charette, the choice was obvious. She'd raise her 9-year-old daughter Wolfie in the same area she herself was raised. So, the couple pulled up stakes and relocated to the Harrisburg area.

One day, while driving down the road in Mechanicsburg, their eyes fell upon a storefront for sale at 17 W. Main St., and the Metropolis Collective was born.

The couple purchased the building in May of 2012 and, by June, had opened the doors to what they call a contemporary eclectic fine art gallery and performance space.

The "Collective" is home to the Trash Art Gallery, the Hole in the Wall Art Gallery, Danielle Charette Art, Rick-o-Chet Records and The Stage Noir.

"We thought we'd bring a little piece of New York here," said Reilly.

So far, the couple hasn't had a bit of trouble attracting native and out-of-town artists.

"Danielle knew a lot of artists from her art career, who also knew a lot of artists, and it snowballed from there," Reilly said.

To showcase as much talent as possible, the exhibits are changed monthly. "Danielle generally comes up with a concept or a theme. One month, the theme was vinyl. I put out the open call nationwide via the Internet. Who can't afford to go to the Salvation Army and pick up a record and paint on it?" asked Reilly.

The couple also host monthly receptions and are participants in Mechanicsburg's First Fridays. "We're trying to expose central Pennsylvania to art that typically wouldn't be available here," said Charette.

Mechanicsburg artist Mark May, who exhibits his robot creations at the gallery, said, "They're bringing in names that people might not see unless they traveled a couple hours. As an art appreciator, that, to me is phenomenal."

Charette agrees. "We're very connected with what's going on in the art world in the big cities," she said.

Reilly, who enjoys promoting the local music scene, invites musicians to perform at the Stage Noir located in the rear of the gallery.

"We hope to eventually have a full entertainment schedule. I had a studio in New York, so, when I relocated, it only made sense to basically just move it all down here. Our goal is to provide an easy way for bands to come here to play. Our only requirement is that they play

original music," said Reilly.

For the creative team, the future looks bright. They are currently in the process of selling the apartment in New York to make the transition complete.

The couple's dream is to put the Metropolis Collective on the map as a destination known as home to a whole spectrum of the arts. "We're not nearly done with what we're going to do here," said Reilly.

"We knew if we built it, they would come," he said. "And they have," added Charette. **B**

*Metropolis Collective,  
17 W. Main St., Mechanicsburg  
[www.MetropolisCollective.com](http://www.MetropolisCollective.com)*

*Facebook: [www.facebook.com/metropoliscollective](http://www.facebook.com/metropoliscollective)*

*OPEN: Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday,  
noon to 7 p.m.; Friday and Saturday,  
noon to 8 p.m.; other hours available  
by appointment.*

# WORDS OF ADVICE

*Writers' workshops offer guidance, support for the midstate's next Hemingway, Grisham.*

BY DON HELIN

It's March and we've almost made it. Winter is waning and spring is on the way. Like the crocuses peeking up from the ground, you too should be looking for fresh starts, for doing things you've always wanted to do. I bet some of you have dreamed about writing a novel, a short story or maybe a memoir. How about making this year the time to try? And best of all, there are people willing to help.

Writing is, by its very nature, a solitary occupation. Writers' groups provide an opportunity to meet with other writers who can help you critique and edit your work, review your ideas and, yes, celebrate your successes or commiserate with you when you receive those negative responses from editors and agents. Trust me, you will.

For those interested in joining a writers' group, I have a number of possibilities for you. In our area, a popular option is the group jointly sponsored by the New Cumberland Library and Pennwriters, the statewide writers group.

The group meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Foundation House next to the library. Usually, about a dozen writers attend. We first discuss items of interest around the area—writers' contests, conferences or places to find helpful hints. Each writer can bring up to five pages of a manuscript for critique by the other members.

"As an aspiring novelist, at the beginning, I received free feedback from veteran writers, and this has proven invaluable to improving my craft," said Dennis Royer, who has been attending since the group formed in 2003. "Now that I am one of those veterans, I continue to participate because there is always room for improvement. I also enjoy helping other new authors get started."

Jan Cincotta joined more than four years ago. "I've learned that it's easier to critique someone else's writing than it is to be objective about my own," she said. "This process has improved my self-editing skills. I've also learned that a word of praise can be just as helpful as the most enlightened suggestion or correction."

Another great opportunity for new writers is the Natalie Craumer Writers Workshop, now in its 11th year. The workshop is held twice each year at the Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill. The spring session will begin in April, and it will be geared toward beginner writers, focusing on how to build a story.

Ann Stewart, novelist, short story writer, teacher and word nerd, is the instructor.

"All it takes to belong is a passion for the written word, primarily fiction, and the desire to learn how to write it well," she said.

Stewart is thrilled about the recent release of "A Community of Writers," an anthology of short stories representing the best of a decade's worth of learning and writing.

"All of these stories originated in the workshop and were critiqued by the participants and myself," she said. "Many of the participants have gone on to write novels, short stories and articles, and you can too."

In Harrisburg proper, opportunities abound for writers at Midtown Scholar Bookstore. Groups there include a Sci-Fi Writers Group, the Midtown Writers Group, the Uptown Poetry Cartel and the Nathaniel Gadsden-Jump Street Writers Word Shop.

Nathaniel Gadsden, life skills coach, minister and published poet, founded the Writers Word Shop in 1977. His goal was to develop a platform for poets and writers to share their poems, meet each other and to publish their work. The continued participation of poets over the years demonstrates its success.

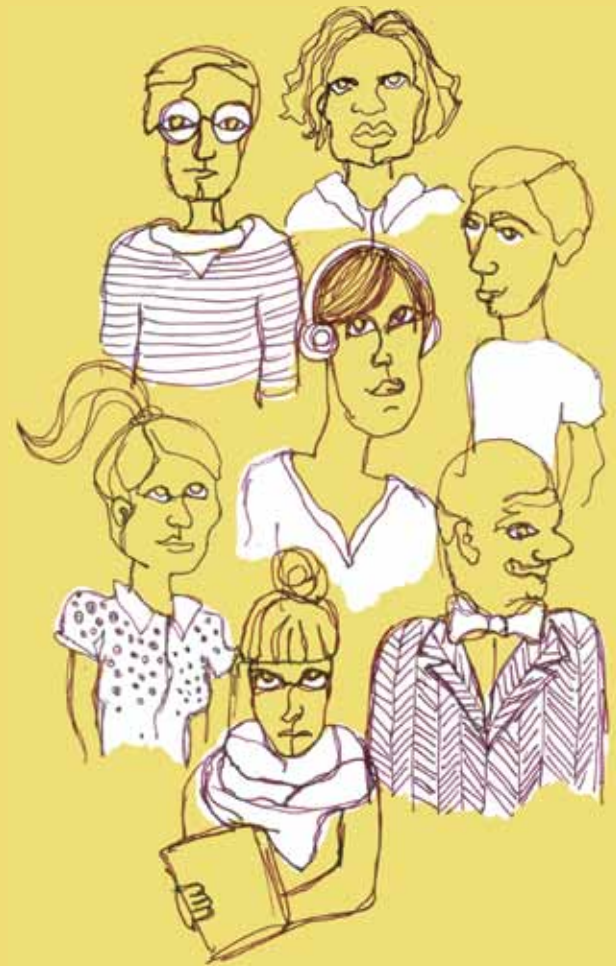
For those who might want a more intensive experience, consider "The Write Stuff," an annual conference sponsored by the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group ([www.glvwg.org](http://www.glvwg.org)). This fun gathering will be held March 22 to 23 in Allentown. I've attended this conference for the past eight years and found it to be very helpful in helping me publish my first novel, "Thy Kingdom Come."

Donna Brennan, the program coordinator, is enthusiastic about this year's conference.

"The Write Stuff offers valuable opportunities to network with and learn from published authors, agents, editors and other writers," she said. "Our workshops cover fiction, nonfiction, poetry, suspense, romance and more. This is the 20th anniversary of our conference, and the feedback I've received from attendees over the years has been heartwarming. As an added benefit, pre-conference workshops are available with well-known, published authors."

These are only a sampling of the writers' groups available nearby. So, what are you waiting for? This could be your time! **B**

*Don Helin published his first thriller, "Thy Kingdom Come," in 2009. He recently published his second, "Devil's Den." He lives in Perry County and is hard at work on his next thriller, "Red Dog." Contact him at [www.donhelin.com](http://www.donhelin.com).*



## THE WRITE PATH

*The written word rules at these writers' groups in our area:*

### MIDTOWN SCHOLAR BOOKSTORE

[www.midtownscholar.com](http://www.midtownscholar.com)

#### Sci-Fi Writers Group

First Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

#### Midtown Writers Group

Third Sunday of each month, 2 p.m.

#### Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel

Each Thursday, 7 p.m.

#### Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Word Shop

Each Friday, 7 p.m.

### NEW CUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

#### Write-on Writers Workshop

Each Saturday, 10 a.m.

#### Pennwriters

Fourth Wednesday, 6 p.m.

### FREDRICKSEN LIBRARY

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

#### Natalie Craumer Writers' Workshop

Twice a year, check website for dates.

### PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

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

#### Sophie's Reaction, A Poetry Group

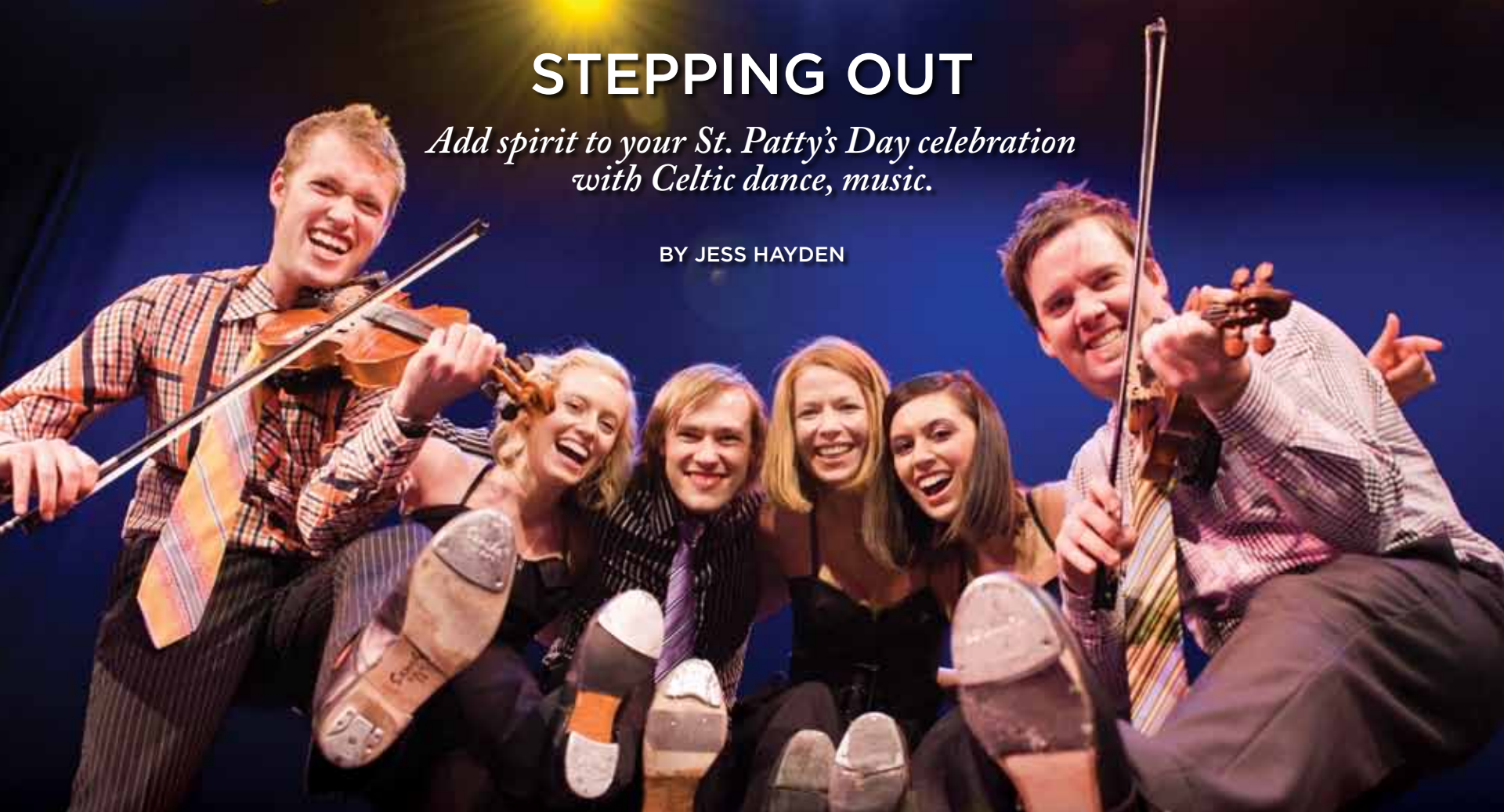
Last Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.



# STEPPING OUT

*Add spirit to your St. Patty's Day celebration  
with Celtic dance, music.*

BY JESS HAYDEN



First, we've got Vicki's Tap Pups—a gutsy group of middle-aged women who comprise the largest adult tap group in the nation. And then we have a myriad of Irish dance schools (such as Coyle, Carraig and McGinley Schools of Irish Dance), where hundreds of young people go to learn to Irish step dance.

Many of us also love all things Celtic. We have three Irish pubs in downtown Harrisburg, an annual St. Patrick's Day Parade not to be beat, Oxford Hall (an excellent Celtic shop in New Cumberland) and several local Celtic festivals.

If you share my enthusiasm for percussive dance AND Celtic culture, come out to see The StepCrew, an exciting group of dancers and musicians who will be making their way to the Rose Lehrman Arts Center on Tuesday, March 19.

The StepCrew hails from the Ottawa Valley region of Canada, and their exhilarating performance brings together three distinct percussive dance forms: Ottawa Valley step dance, Irish step dance and tap.

Of the three styles, the Ottawa Valley style is perhaps the least known. It was developed throughout the years as the Scots/Irish, German and Polish settlers in the Ottawa Valley region of Canada danced and played music together in logging camps and at community square dances. What has emerged is an art form that has a rich and distinctive Celtic style all its own. Currently, about 1,000 young people in the Ottawa Valley region learn and compete in this dance style.

The StepCrew has six dancers—three who perform the Ottawa Valley style, one who is an Irish step dancer and two who are tap dancers. A typical show starts with a rousing number with the entire ensemble on stage, but the following piece, called “Evolution,” features single dancers demonstrating each of the three styles.

“We try to show audiences in a black-and-white way the differences between these dance forms,” said Dan Stacey, dancer and one of the founders of the ensemble. “As the show moves on, we try to show how the three styles are related to one another.”

I asked Stacey what elements make each of the percussive dance styles so distinctive, and he said that it all begins with the shoes.

“Cara Butler, our Irish dancer, uses shoes with a fiberglass tip,” he said

“While the tap dancers have a single metal tap, the Ottawa Valley dancers often use two metal taps with a rivet in between them. You can imagine that this really affects the sound that the shoes make!”

He went on to explain that tap dancing is usually syncopated, while Irish and Ottawa Valley dancing tend to be more even tempo. There is also a big difference in how each style is taught. Irish step dance is taught in a regimented fashion, and, if the students want to compete, the schools have to be sanctioned. The Ottawa Valley style is taught much more informally, and the dancers are freer to use their own interpretations.

The StepCrew travels with a five-piece band that augments the excitement of the dance numbers by backing the dancers up with driving, rock-infused Celtic music. The band features drums, bass, guitar and keyboard and, when the dancers need a break, they play a few numbers on their own. Two of The StepCrew's dancers, Dan Stacey and Jon Pilatzke, also play the fiddle, and, at times, they'll join the band and play some traditional numbers. They have even been known to fiddle and dance at the same time!

A highpoint of the show is when the group's wonderful vocalist, Alyth McCormack, is featured. McCormack is a Scottish singer from the Island of Lewis in the Hebrides who now lives in Ireland. She sings in Gaelic and English, but also performs “mouth music”—a lovely traditional style in which the singer uses a lilting voice to mimic the sound of an instrument. When not performing with The StepCrew, McCormack travels throughout the world singing with The Chieftains.

Teri Guerrisi, the director of Live at Rose Lehrman, first saw The StepCrew at a music conference several years ago and really fell in love with them.

“We had been looking to book a dance event that had a tap/step/percussive focus,” she said. “We love the fact that this show highlights three styles, and we think that the rock and traditional music brings it all together for a high energy show.”

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*The StepCrew performs on March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Rose Lehrman Arts Center on the main HACC campus in Harrisburg. Tickets and information are available by calling 717-231-ROSE.*

*Jess Hayden is executive director of the Susquehanna Folk Music Society.*



## COMING TO HBG

*Hot bands warm a chilly month.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

March Music Madness tips off in Harrisburg this month, with an 11-band lineup series called Winterfest. Vetour Productions will be presenting tunes on both stages at Appalachian Brewing Company, featuring the precocious upstarts, The Flower Garden, and the more rootsy, bluegrass band, the Coal Town Rounders. Others who will share the stage over the course of the evening are: the Incubus-inspired sounds of Minshara, Taillights, Colors, Vegas Under Lights, Spotted Atrocious, Feed Your Ego, Crobot and That Girl—a wonderful array of band names and sounds.

The MakeSpace, the ever-dynamic creative entity, has become the dandy of intimate indie venues in Harrisburg. This month, it proves it by bringing in Wooden Wand, the stage name for the mercurial James Jackson Toth.

Toth has never boxed himself in by genre or generation, but Pitchfork describes his new album, “Blood Oaths of the New Blues,” “as affording songs ripped from the headlines or rescued from personal journeys [the] necessary empathy and intimacy” they deserve. The opener, a two-song medley “No Bed for Beatle Wand/Days This Long,” is a question-driven one that seems an appropriate balance to the closer, “No Debts,” which is a clear admission of a life ending without questions, rather, with contentment. This concert will be like watching a fine storytelling, one imbued with honesty and imagination.

At the end of the month, The Corty Byron Band plays at Stage on Herr. The eponymous front man started gigging his way around central Pennsylvania at the age of 16 with his former group, The Green Onions. Following this stint, he took his talents out to southern California. Byron clearly has an immense respect for Hendrix, found in his song “I Am,” but his skills span the rock ‘n’ roll spectrum, from the simple traveling man ballad, “Mississippi Moan,” to the harmonica-driven “Leavin’ Love.”

This jack-of-all-trades impresses on all fronts, and he will deliver on his chameleonic material. Don’t be shy about coming to this one early, too. The Kyle Morgan Band opens with its honky-tonk balladry; Morgan is a lyricist with impeccable writing and guitar skills and should not be missed.

Take your pick of the mercurial this March. In this bracket, you’re not going to choose a loser. **B**

Photo: The Corty Byron Band



WINTERFEST, MARCH 3

THE FLOWER GARDEN  
THE COAL TOWN ROUNDERS  
MINSHARA  
TAILLIGHTS  
COLORS  
VEGAS UNDER LIGHTS  
SPOTTED ATROCIOUS  
FEED YOUR EGO  
CROBOT  
THAT GIRL

ABBEY BAR AT APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.  
50 N. CAMERON STREET, HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.



WOODEN WAND, MARCH 9

THE MAKESPACE  
1916 N. 3RD STREET, HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.



THE CORTY BYRON BAND, MARCH 30

HMAC STAGE ON HERR  
268 HERR STREET, HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 9:30 P.M.







## FEATURED PROFILE

# RACHEL CRIDER

Rachael Crider is a photo enthusiast from Camp Hill, a mother of three, and an aspiring doula. Please check her out on Instagram @myfetchingfreckles. See an excerpt of our interview below:

**Best App:** Asterglo, an IG photo editing software

**Who is your favorite photographer:** @Kevin Russ on Instagram

**Currently inspired by:** Jack Kerouac and Radical Face

**If she could be the best at anything:** Gardening or Farming

**Why she loves living in central Pennsylvania:** Four distinct seasons almost equal in length allowing for a diversity of landscape photos



@MYFETCHINGFRECKLES



JORDAN McCAULEY  
 SHOELESSJAY



DANI THOMPSON  
 ELLESHAE4



THEBURG STAFF  
 SHUTTERBURG



JEFF WATERS  
 JEFFWATERSJR



JEN MERRILL  
 JENANDAUDREY



LAWRENCE BINDA  
 FISHBULB17



LOCAL QUARTERLY  
 LOCALMAG



ANONYMOUS  
 ANONYMOUS



REBECCA MARIE MILLER  
 TROJANHEART



KRISTIN SABADISH  
 KRISTINSABADISH



JENISE HARRIS  
 JENISE7265



MEGAN SITES  
 MEGSITES



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## COMMUNITY CORNER

### The Five Hundred Men Reading

March 1: To celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Ron Claiborne of ABC's Good Morning America will read to students at Steelton-Highspire Elementary School, capping off a week-long series of men reading to students in schools throughout the area. The event will run 7:30-11:30 a.m.

### Seedling Sale

March 1-22: The Dauphin County Conservation District is conducting its annual Spring Seedling Sale, offering residents the opportunity to beautify their properties and improve the environment by planting trees and shrubs. For more information or to order, visit [www.dauphincd.org](http://www.dauphincd.org) or call the district office at 717-921-8298. Orders must be pre-paid and received by the office no later than March 22. Orders may be picked up at the district's office 3 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on April 11 and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on April 12.

### Pennsylvania Home Show

March 2-10: The annual show includes more than 375 exhibitors of home building, remodeling and home improvement products and professionals. Through March 10 at the State Farm Show Complex. For more, call 717-232-5595.

### Uplifting Athletes' 2nd Annual Gridiron Gala

March 2: Help "White-Out Rare Diseases" at this black tie-optional event, which will feature an all-you-can-eat "gourmet tailgate," open bar, games, silent auction, live entertainment and former college football stars from the Penn State chapter. Starts at 7 p.m. in Strawberry Square. Tickets are available at [www.uplightingathletes.org/gridirongala](http://www.uplightingathletes.org/gridirongala). Call 717-737-7900 for more info.

### Founder's Ball

March 2: The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held 6-11 p.m. at the Hershey Lodge. The keynote speaker is Justin G. Nelson, and Erica Lyn Everest will provide the entertainment. For more information, go to [www.cpglcc.org](http://www.cpglcc.org) or e-mail [info@cpglcc.org](mailto:info@cpglcc.org).

### Maple Sugar Festival

March 3: Taste real maple syrup on ice cream and shop for delicious products at this free event at Fort Hunter Park, 12-4 p.m. Learn how to tap a tree and watch the art of spile making.

### Central Penn Presents: State Senator Rob Teplitz

March 6: Senator Teplitz will discuss his new role as senator and the governor's budget, and encourage students to vote and to get active in the community. His presentation will streamed live online through [www.centralpenn.edu/presents](http://www.centralpenn.edu/presents) and at the Summerdale Campus. From 12:10-1:10 p.m.

### Temple University, Harrisburg Freshman Year Program

March 7: Complete your first year in Harrisburg, then complete your remaining three at Temple's Philadelphia campus. Learn more at the Open House at 234 Strawberry Square, Room 118 between 5-8 p.m.

### Juried Art Auction, Habitat for Humanity

March 8: The 8th Annual Juried Art Auction, featuring local artists, starts at 6 p.m. at the Hershey Country Club. Proceeds support ending poverty housing in Harrisburg. Individual tickets are \$25. Call 717-545-7299 for tickets or visit [www.harrisburghabitat.com](http://www.harrisburghabitat.com).

### GreenCon 2013

March 15: Central Pennsylvania's Green Living Conference, hosted by USGBC of Central Pennsylvania and Dickinson College's Center for Sustainability Education and Office of Campus Operations, takes place 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Sustainable design, tree preservation, greening your home and energy modeling will be some of the topics addressed. Visit [usgbc-centralpa.org](http://usgbc-centralpa.org) to register.

### Ladies Night Out

March 15: Dauphin County will present the Fourth Annual Ladies' Night Out, 7-10 p.m. at Kevin's Place restaurant, 105 Main St., Lykens. Women 18 and older are invited to enjoy an evening of free live entertainment, health, wellness, shopping and pampering with this year's theme, "Roaring 1920s Vintage." Ladies who wear vintage hats to the event will be eligible for a prize. For more, contact Bonnie Kent at the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center at 717-905-2700 or visit [DauphinCounty.org](http://DauphinCounty.org).

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 16: The annual parade begins at the Capitol and ends at the Keystone Building. It includes high school bands, bagpipe bands, floats and a Mummers String Band, 2-4:30 p.m. For info, e-mail [irishparade@comcast.net](mailto:irishparade@comcast.net) or call 717-889-8317.

### Tenth Annual "Sew Much for Charity"

March 16: The mission of this event is to share information about charity needle arts groups in the Greater Harrisburg Area, collect a contact list, work on our own groups projects to benefit our community and provide free fabric, notions and craft items to the public. From 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Hummelstown. For more info or to reserve a table, please contact Marcellene Currans, 717-561-9964.

### Creating the Perfect Garden for a Vintage Home

March 19: Denise Williams, master gardener at Highland Gardens will provide both historical aspects and design consideration to enhance your historic Harrisburg property. This presentation is free, open to the public and will take place at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center 6-7:30 p.m. Email [john@historicharrisburg.com](mailto:john@historicharrisburg.com) or call 717-233-4646 for more information.

### HBG Tweet-Up

March 20: Join the social gathering of local twitter characters at Appalachian Brewing Company 7-10 p.m. You're not limited to 140 words.

### Easter Egg Hunt

March 24: Thousands of plastic eggs will be filled with candy and spread across The Fort Hunter Park & Mansion lawn. Take part in special family activities such as face painting, pony ride and more, 2-5 p.m. For info, call 717-599-5751.

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## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

### Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100  
aacamuseum.org

"Porsche Style & Design Exhibit," an exhibit that features 20 Porsche road and racecars. It will also feature the art and design of Porsche products, through April 28.

"Women Take the Wheel," an exhibit that focuses on women who made automotive history and possibly steered the course of who we are today, in honor of Women's History Month, through March 31.

### Art Association of Harrisburg

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

"4 Artist Invitational Exhibit,"  
Feb. 22-Mar. 27

### The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Art by Vivian Brandlers,  
through March.

### Fenetre Gallery

HACC Midtown 2, 2nd Floor  
N. 3rd and Reilly Streets, Harrisburg

"The Predecessor," an exploration in tradition by Benjamin Lee Sperry and Garrick Dorsett, with an original musical composition by Willie Markley, March 15-April. 4.  
Reception, March 15, 6-8 p.m.

### Gallery@Second

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

Works by Jeff Wiles and Fiel Patricio,  
through April 13.

### Mangia Qui

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

The art of Gerald Davidson and Elide Hower, through March.

### National Civil War Museum

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

"A Life in Letters, Joshua L. Chamberland," an exhibit that highlights this brigadier general's accomplishments, through May 1.

"1863," an exhibit highlighting the third year of the Civil War, through Dec. 31.

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

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

"Wild Places, Wild Life, Wild Art: Conserving America One Poster at a Time," through March 9.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

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

"Since the River Spoke," an exhibition featuring the prints of Shelley Thorstensen, through April 3.  
Reception Mar. 7, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

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

"Course and Discourse," an exhibit sponsored by Susquehanna Art Museum, pairs works by students and their professors from a number of central Pennsylvania colleges and universities, through May 6.  
Reception March 15, starting at 6 p.m.

"A Tribute to Nicholas Ruggieri," an exhibit featuring the talents of this local artist, through April 28.

### Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-215-ARTS  
whitakercenter.org

"Art Instructor Exhibition" is a presentation by the Art Center School and Galleries of Mechanicsburg, through April 4.

### Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar

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

Paintings by James Krabiel, through Mar. 10.

"The Creative Sprouts Art Show," featuring the art of youngsters 14 and under, through April 14. Reception March 15, starting at 6 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Workshop and Jump Street, Inc. presents, Poetry Night, 7 p.m.

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Local Author Signing Event, 11 a.m.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: TED Talk, 1 p.m.

March 4: Swing Dance, 6:30 p.m.

March 5: Sci-Fi Writer's Group, 7 p.m.

March 6, 12: Healthy Eating and Living—Ruth Seitz

March 7, 14, 21, 28: Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.

March 9, 23: Susquehanna Art Museum (SAM) Art Class, 10 a.m.; Middle School Book Club, 1 p.m.

March 13, 27: Sydney's Book Club-Preschool Event (*Online Registration Required*), 10 a.m.

March 13: Friends of Midtown, Events Meeting, 6 p.m.

March 13: Book Club, Zen Group, 7 p.m.

March 16: Book Club, Poison Pen, 5 p.m.

March 17: Midtown Writers Group, 2 p.m.

March 17: Book Club, LGBT, 5 p.m.

March 20: Book Club, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, 7 p.m.

March 21: Book Club, Banned Books, 7 p.m.

March 24: Book Club, Harrisburg Young Professionals, 2 p.m.

March 25: Book Club, Feminism Group, 7 p.m.

March 26: Art Kaleidoscope, 7 p.m.

### The LGBT Center Gallery

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg

March 30: Book Launch Party, "Something Sensual," T.L. Waid, 4 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

### Appalachian Brewing Co./ Abbey Bar

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

March 2: Winterfest 2013

March 6: Enter the Haggis

March 9: Ground Up

March 10: Cancer Sucks 2.0: Benefit for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

March 15: Juggling Suns

March 16: Enter the Haggis

March 17: Kilmaine Saints

March 20: Cabinet & Hot Buttered Rum

### Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg  
717-909-9191  
carleyristorante.com

### Piano Schedule

March 1, 22: Roy Lefever

March 2, 5, 9, 19, 26: Brandon Parsons

March 4, 11, 18, 25: Chris Gassaway

March 6, 20, 27: Chelsea Caroline

March 7, 14: Giovanni Triano

March 8, 16, 21, 30: Jett Prescott

March 9, 12, 19, 26: Brandon Parsons

March 10, 24, 28: Anthony Haubert

March 11, 13: Chris Gassaway

March 12: Brandon Parsons (Open Mic)

March 14: Giovanni Triano

March 15, 29: Noel Gevers

March 23: Ted Ansel

### Gullifty's

1104 Carlisle Rd., Camp Hill  
717-761-6692  
cxmedia.us/projects/gulliftys/  
wordpress/

March 1: The Woodies

March 2: Dirty Place

March 9: Gypsy Caravan

March 13: Steve Rudolph

& Jonathan Ragonese

March 29: Mama Corn

March 30: Black Gives Way to Blue

### Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

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

March 2: Cirque de la Symphonie

March 3: Cirque de la Symphonie

March 23: La Traviata

March 24: La Traviata

### Hershey Theatre

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

*No concerts scheduled for March.*

### Hilton Harrisburg & Towers

1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-6000

March 1: Steve Rudolph Trio featuring Marko Marcinko

March 10: Steve Rudolph

March 17: Steve Rudolph

March 21: Steve Rudolph's Trio & Friends

March 24: Steve Rudolph

March 28: Steve Rudolph

### HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

March 1: Aortic Valve

March 2: Nate Myers and the Aces

March 3: Cold Fronts

March 7: Funkbots and the Love Explosion

March 10: Blues Jam

March 17: O'Husky Pants and the Rail

March 21: ShrimpBoat Nasty Funk

March 22: Ducky Duke and the Vintage

March 23: Jackie Brown and The Gill Street Band

March 24: Beecher's Fault

March 28: Mojo Flamenco w/ Janet Robin

March 30: The Corty Byron Band w/ Kyle Morgan Orchestra

**Hollywood Casino at Penn National**

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

March 1: Cazhmeire  
March 2: Gas Station Disco  
March 8: Funktion  
March 9: The Amish Outlaws  
March 15: Second Chance Band  
March 16: Honeypump  
March 22: Uptown Band  
March 23: The Luv Gods  
March 29: Lima Bean Riot  
March 30: Smooth Like Clyde

**The MakeSpace**

1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg

March 9: Wooden Wand  
w/ You You Dark Forest  
March 23: Dempwolf  
& The Damage Done

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**

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

March 1: Issac Gill w/ Ben Rothermel  
March 9: Gatsby's Green Light  
March 15: Chirstopher Mark Jones  
March 16: Mike Quinones  
March 17: Jesse Sparhawk and  
Eric Carbonara  
March 22: Common Mama  
March 29: Hampshire  
March 30: George Tisdale Band

**Market Square Concerts**

717-221-9599  
marketsquareconcerts.org  
March 20: Jeremy Denk,  
Whitaker Center

**MoMo's BBQ & Grille**

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

March 1: Jeff Calvin  
March 8: Chris Dean and Nate  
Myers Band  
March 15: Octavia Harp  
March 22: Buskers  
March 29: Autumn Brew

**Stock's on 2nd**

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

March 2: Steve Swisher & Shea Quinn  
March 16: Erin Cruise Pop Duo  
March 30: The Whitebread Band

**Suba Tapas Bar/Mangia Qui**

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

March 1: Alexandra Day  
March 2: Paul Cullen  
March 8: Dirty Little Secret  
March 9: Christopher Deal Band  
March 14: Steve Rudolph  
w/ Special Guest

March 15: Adela&Jude  
March 16: Hemlock Hollow  
March 22: Alex Culbreth  
& The Dead Country  
March 23: TBA  
March 28: Steve Rudolph  
w/ Special Guest  
March 29: Jordan White  
March 30: Kelly Delaveris

**Whitaker Center**

222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS  
whitakercenter.org  
March 23: Melissa Manchester

**THE STAGE DOOR****2nd Street Comedy Club**

236 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-681-8012  
secondstreetcomedyclub.com

March 1-2: Pat Dixon  
March 8-9: Lucas Bohn  
March 15-16: Jamie Lissow  
March 29-30: Tracy Smith

**Broadway Classics Production**

Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton  
St., Harrisburg  
877-717-7969  
broadwayclassicspa.com

*No shows scheduled for March.*

**Harrisburg Comedy Zone**

110 Limekiln Rd., New Cumberland  
717-920-3627  
harrisburgcomedyzone.com

March 8-9: D. Cameron  
March 1-2: Paul Hopper  
March 15-16: Tim Statum  
March 29-30: Adam Dodd

**Harrisburg Shakespeare Company**

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

March 2-17: "Vincent"

**Hershey Area Playhouse**

Sand Hill Road at Cherry  
Drive, Hershey  
717-838-8164  
hersheyareaplayhouse.com

*No shows scheduled for March.*

**Hershey Theatre**

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

Feb. 26-March 3: "Jersey Boys"  
March 15-17: "American Idiot"  
March 21: Lewis Black,  
March 23: "Scooby-Doo Live!  
Musical Mysteries"

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**

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

March 8-9: "Vagina Monologues"  
March 15-16: "Pretty Things  
Peep Show"

**Little Theater of Mechanicsburg**

915 S. York St., Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535  
ltmonline.net

March 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17:  
"The Mousetrap"

**Open Stage of Harrisburg**

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

March 2: "The Diary of Anne Frank"

**Oyster Mill Playhouse**

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

March 8-17: "Scarlet Letter"

**Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut**

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

March 6-30: "The Snow Queen"

**Theatre Harrisburg**

513 Hurlock St., Harrisburg  
717-232-5501  
theatreharrisburg.com

March 15-24: "Wait Until Dark"

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# ONE TOUGH YEAR

*A new school board member reflects on his first year in office.*

BY BRENDAN MURRAY

It has now been more than a year since the school board has taken office. I have loved being able to serve the community in this fashion, but it has come with many highs and lows.

The board was put in one of the worst situations one can ever experience as newly elected members. We had to make deep cuts to a school district that had already had closed five schools and let go more than 300 teachers.

This was a very tough task. How do you explain to a community that had to cut its pre-K program a year earlier that now we can't afford kindergarten or a sports program that was the source of so much pride? After all the cuts were made, I felt that we didn't need a tax increase so I voted no, because I believed there were still areas that could have been cut.

Another problem facing the board was the revolving door of members. It seemed that we were always down a member. This left the board in a state of flux. Decision-making was made harder because of the lack of understanding between board members.

The great moments always involved being able to interact with the students. The part of school board meetings I looked forward to most was when students received awards or acknowledgments for the good works they have done. Rewarding the students is a great way to set an example for younger children.

As an avid sports fan, I got great joy out of watching our young men turn around a great football tradition. Becoming a band booster allowed me to understand why this community has so much pride in its musical tradition. Attending concerts that showed off our students' great talent for the arts is something I will continue to do long after I have left the board.

There is one moment I hold above all else—graduation, the culmination of so many years of hard work to get students to this one goal. Nothing gave me more happiness as a board member than to be able to shake their hands as they received their diplomas.

Graduation is the end result that I wish for all of our students. However, in too many cases, our students are not reaching it. We have to be realistic about how big the district's task is. Turning it around will be a monumental objective. We cannot run from it. We need to dive in and take this challenge on headfirst. We must succeed because it is our future that depends on it.

We have accomplished some of the things that I believe will lead us in the right direction. The comprehensive plan laid out by Dr. Knight-Burney, our superintendent, is a very good start. I do understand that Rome wasn't built in a day, but I believe we can do more. That is why I wanted to put a focus on mentoring. Our community, especially the young professionals, needs to see

the connection between the school district and bringing Harrisburg back to prominence.

The connection needs to be forged between people just like me and the district to show how important the school district really is to someone who is single and has no children in the district. They need to see that the money they spend on education is not just another tax. It is very important to the future. The one way this can happen is by getting them involved in the mentoring of these students.

This is why I urge my fellow 20- to 30-somethings to join the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. We need to stop pointing fingers in the community to show where the problem comes from. It comes from all of us. I know this is a bitter pill to take, but it is the truth. We have been pointing fingers for more than 30 years, and it hasn't changed anything.

Not so long ago in the history of Harrisburg, people used to look to us as one of the better places to get an education. I firmly believe we can get back there if we make the commitment as a community to make the right choices. Democracy is predicated on an educated electorate. The future of our city depends on students receiving the best education they can receive. That should be our mutual goal. **B**

*Brendan Murray is a member of the Harrisburg School Board.*

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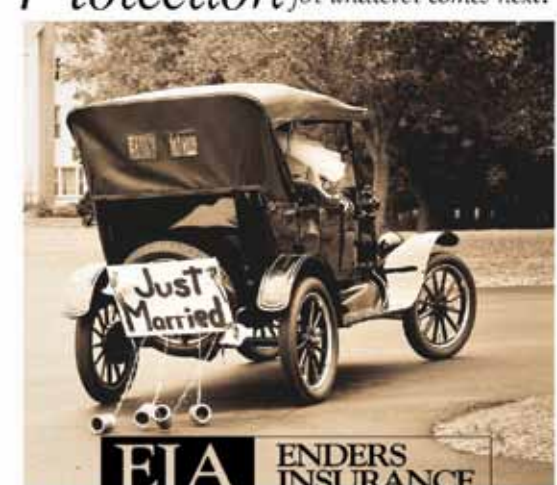
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# THE HEAT (AND A/C) IS ON

*Proper installation, service as important as HVAC unit quality.*

BY JUSTIN MCCLURE

**T**he bulk of the heating season is behind us. However, just as you crack open a window and breathe in the first fresh air after a long winter, a harsh realization creeps in: it won't be long before the cooling season, once again, is here.

At that point, you may wonder: "What is the best system for my house?" With the sharp spike in home cooling and heating costs, it is an important question to ask.

Whether you're moving into a newly constructed home or living in an existing home, there are some things you should know about your heating and cooling system. How do you know if you have a viable, economic heating or cooling system, or an energy hog that will eat a hole in your budget?

The answer is, of course, "there's really no best system." Different people have different requirements. But the best explanation is: the worst system made, properly installed, is better than the best system made, improperly installed.

No one should be satisfied with a system that just keeps the cold out in winter and that just provides some relief from the heat of summer. For they know that, in addition to providing relief from the outside weather conditions, an ideal HVAC system can, by the use of a programmable thermostat and other controls, sanitize the air, control the moisture in the air and, with the use of zoning if necessary, eliminate unwarranted hot and cold spots throughout the house.

The ultimate system is one that can provide maximum humidification as well as dehumidification, energy efficiency, reasonable initial and repair expenses and improved indoor air quality. When you know that you have equipment and components—made up of many individual parts, yet, designed and engineered to work together to increase comfort and performance—then you have a perfectly balanced system.

Certainly, a new HVAC system is the last thing most people want to buy. But if your HVAC system doesn't work properly, then nothing else matters. **B**

*Justin McClure is president of Daflure Heating, Cooling, & Solar.  
Find out more at [www.daflure.com](http://www.daflure.com).*

*Here are standard efficiency ratings that make it easy to compare the performance of different systems. Understanding their importance will help you choose a home comfort system that will not only save you money, but also save energy.*

- **ANNUAL FUEL UTILIZATION EFFICIENCY (AFUE)**

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- **SEASONAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY (SEER)**

Are you getting your money's worth out of your air conditioner? Determining the SEER of your unit will help. SEER is the comparative method used to judge how efficiently your air conditioner performs. It's one way to see if you're getting real value out of the energy dollars you spend. The higher a unit's SEER, the higher your unit's energy efficiency and the more efficiently your unit uses power.

- **HEATING SEASONAL PERFORMANCE FACTOR (HSPF)**

The HSPF is the most commonly used measure of the heating efficiency of heat pumps. The HSPF is a heat pump's estimated seasonal heating output in BTUs divided by the amount of energy that it consumes in watt-hours. Typically, a high efficiency air conditioner or heat pump pays for itself in savings in a few years.



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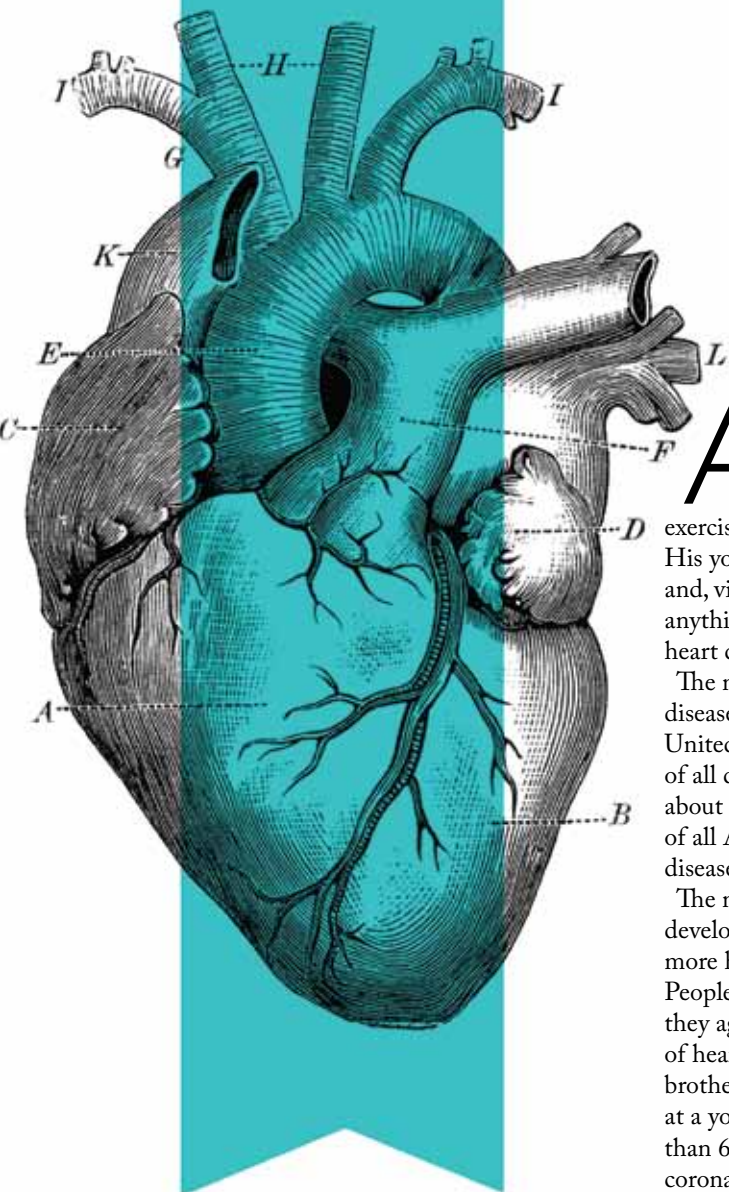




# GOTTA HAVE HEART

*Simple changes can slash risk of heart disease.*

BY DR. JOHN GOLDMAN



A 48-year-old man with a history of hypertension and diabetes is 20 pounds overweight, smokes a pack of cigarettes a day, rarely exercises and frequently eats fast food on the run. His younger brother recently had a heart attack, and, visiting his doctor, he wants to know if there is anything he can do to reduce his risk of developing heart disease himself.

The man is right to be concerned. Cardiovascular disease is one of the leading causes of deaths in the United States. It is responsible for about one-third of all deaths in Americans over the age of 35 and about one-half of all American men and one-third of all American women will develop cardiovascular disease at some point in their lives.

The man has several fixed risk factors for developing heart disease. He is male, and men have more heart attacks than women. He is getting older. People of both sexes develop more heart disease as they age. Furthermore, he now has a family history of heart disease. If a close relative (a mother, father, brother, sister, aunt or uncle) has had heart disease at a young age (less than 50 for a man and less than 60 for a woman), you are more likely to get coronary disease.

The patient also has several risk factors he can do something about. He has high blood pressure and diabetes, both of which increase the risk of developing heart disease. However, controlling high blood pressure, either through diet and exercise or through medication, will greatly decrease the risk of heart disease. Simply having diabetes puts a person at higher risk of heart disease. Keeping diabetes well controlled will also decrease this risk.

Because the man has several risk factors for heart disease, his cholesterol should be checked and aggressively lowered if the level is high. Cholesterol levels are influenced by diet. However, there are many people who are genetically pre-disposed for high cholesterol. Even if your diet is good, you should have your cholesterol checked periodically. Borderline cholesterol can be treated with diet and exercise, but higher levels will often require medication. People with known cardiac disease or who have conditions such as diabetes that put them at high risk for heart disease are likely to require medication.

Probably, the patient's biggest risk factor is that he is a smoker. Rates of cardiac disease are much higher among people who smoke (three times higher in male smokers than non-smokers and six times higher in female smokers). Quitting smoking

decreases your risk of a heart attack by at least half, and your risk of cardiac disease decreases almost immediately after quitting and continues to decrease the longer you abstain.

Diet can also be a risk factor. High-fat diets, especially those high in red meat, are a risk factor for heart disease. Conversely, low-fat diets, especially those that are higher in fruits and vegetables, are associated with lower cardiac disease. Following a good diet also makes it easier to lose weight, which also reduces risk.

The patient also would be well advised to begin an exercise program. Exercise is probably one of the most important determinants of your risk for heart disease. In fact, people who exercise a lot and have high cholesterol actually have lower rates of heart disease than people who have low cholesterol and don't exercise (people who have low cholesterol and exercise have the lowest rates). It is recommended that you exercise at least 30 minutes per day at least five days per week. However, that does not mean you have to go out and run a marathon. Simple exercise such as walking, even for relatively short periods of time, will decrease your cardiac risk.

Most of us know that we should eat right, exercise and not smoke. However, even if we know that we have heart disease or at high risk for it, it is often hard to motivate ourselves to keep up good habits. It may be easier to visualize our good or bad habits in life gained or lost. For example, each cigarette smoked, on average, shortens your life by 10 minutes, and quitting a one-pack-a-day habit will add about three-and-a-half hours to your life for every day you do not smoke. Similarly, deciding to get up off the couch and take a walk adds about 20 minutes of life; deciding to stay on the couch subtracts 30.

Heart disease is very common, and, essentially, all of us are at risk of developing coronary disease at some point in our lives. However, you can greatly decrease your risk by being checked for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes and treating these diseases if they develop, and by following good habits—not smoking, eating a good diet and exercising. **B**



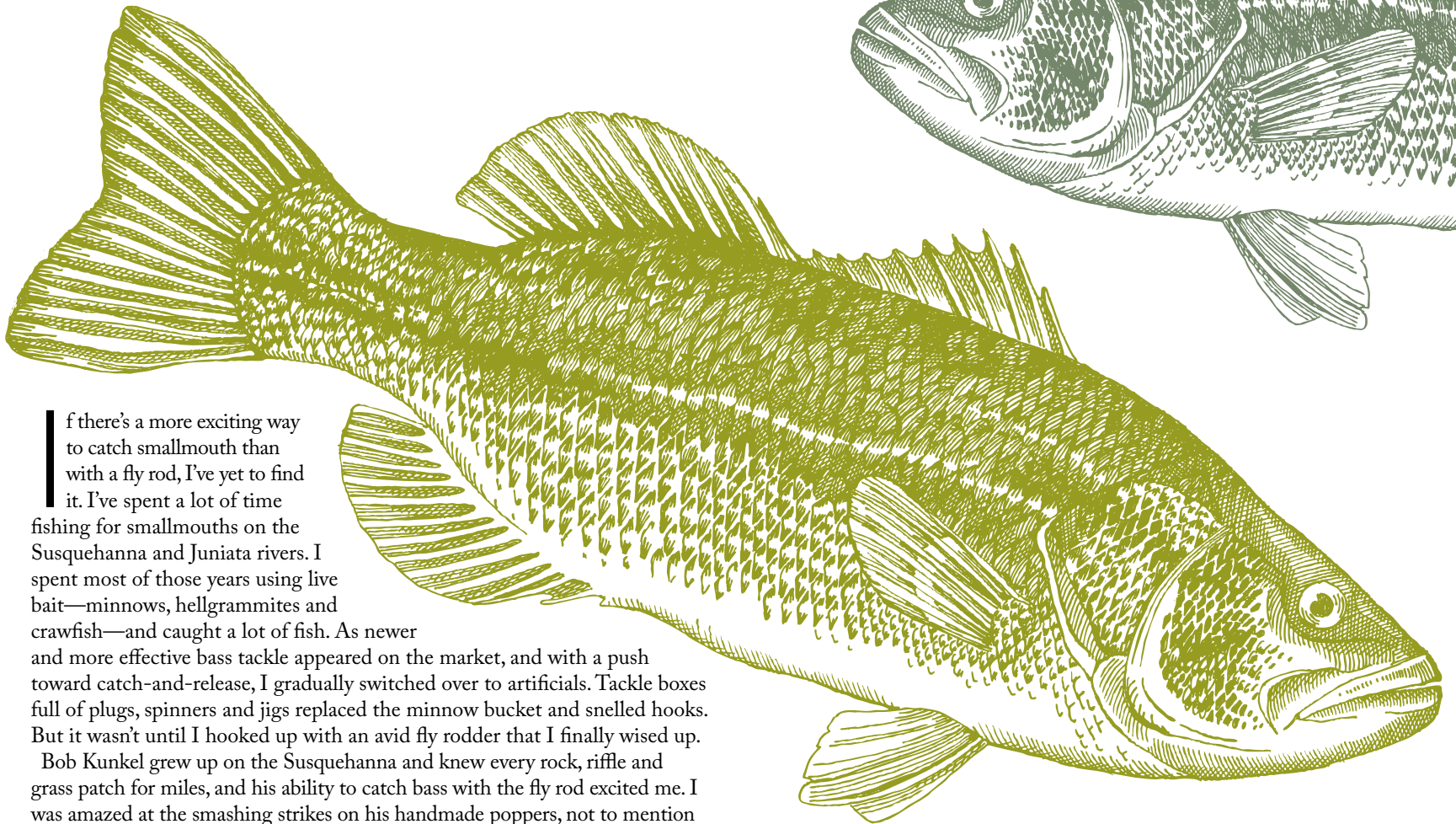
**DR. JOHN GOLDMAN**

*Program Director of Internal Medicine at PinnacleHealth.*

# POPPIN' FOR SMALLMOUTHS

*A line, a lure and a mile-wide river.*

BY KERMIT G. HENNING



If there's a more exciting way to catch smallmouth than with a fly rod, I've yet to find it. I've spent a lot of time fishing for smallmouths on the Susquehanna and Juniata rivers. I spent most of those years using live bait—minnows, hellgrammites and crawfish—and caught a lot of fish. As newer and more effective bass tackle appeared on the market, and with a push toward catch-and-release, I gradually switched over to artificials. Tackle boxes full of plugs, spinners and jigs replaced the minnow bucket and snelled hooks. But it wasn't until I hooked up with an avid fly rodder that I finally wised up.

Bob Kunkel grew up on the Susquehanna and knew every rock, riffle and grass patch for miles, and his ability to catch bass with the fly rod excited me. I was amazed at the smashing strikes on his handmade poppers, not to mention the amount of fish he brought to the net. It was under Bob's tutelage that I learned the pleasure of taking smallmouth bass on the long pole. Although fly rodders are definitely in the minority on the river, there is great smallmouth habitat especially suited to fishing with a fly rod.

Rather than deep holes and channels, I concentrate on shallower areas that are choked with cover—rocks, ledges, riffles, grass patches and islands. These areas attract larger fish hunting for their favorite forage, the crawfish.

Although fly rodding for trout can be sophisticated, popping for bass is really quite simple. My favorite lure is the cork-bodied popper in sizes from one-half to 1-inch long. Other fly rod lures like streamers, wooly worms, wet and dry flies will also take bass, but there is nothing to match the excitement that comes when a bronzeback explodes out of the water after your bait and tail-walks across the water after feeling the sting of the hook.

Any cork-bodied popper will work, but those with a dished face that actually produce a "pop" on the water when twitched work best. The addition of a feathered tail and rubber legs adds considerably to their effectiveness. I've had the most luck with white poppers, but there are days when the bass won't even look at white. So carry a variety of colors and, if necessary, change colors until you find what works.

The type of water dictates the action. Shallow, still water calls for smaller poppers and a soft, quiet pop. Here, you need barely twitch the lure to trigger a strike. In faster waters, you can use bigger poppers and work them harder to produce the loud pop needed to attract fish.

Wind often can be a factor on the open water of a river, so a hefty rod and line are in order. I prefer an 8-foot rod matched with an 8-weight bass bug taper line. Leaders should be heavy enough to last the constant abrasion of rocks and other habitat. I prefer a 4-pound test leader of seven feet.

Time of day matters little. Early morning and late evening, fish are actively seeking food in smaller, shallower water. During the heat of the day, look for them in deeper water and cooler water with lots of oxygen. Fast riffles between rock ledges always hold fish.

About the only time the fly rod won't work is when the water is high and muddy. After a hard rain, it doesn't take long for the many tributaries to empty in their mud. In most cases, though, the river will clear up in a few days.

You don't have to quit fishing, however. Muddy water is the time to dust off the bait bucket. Minnows, night crawlers and crawfish will keep you in fish until it's time again to pop their eyes out. **B**



**KERMIT G. HENNING**

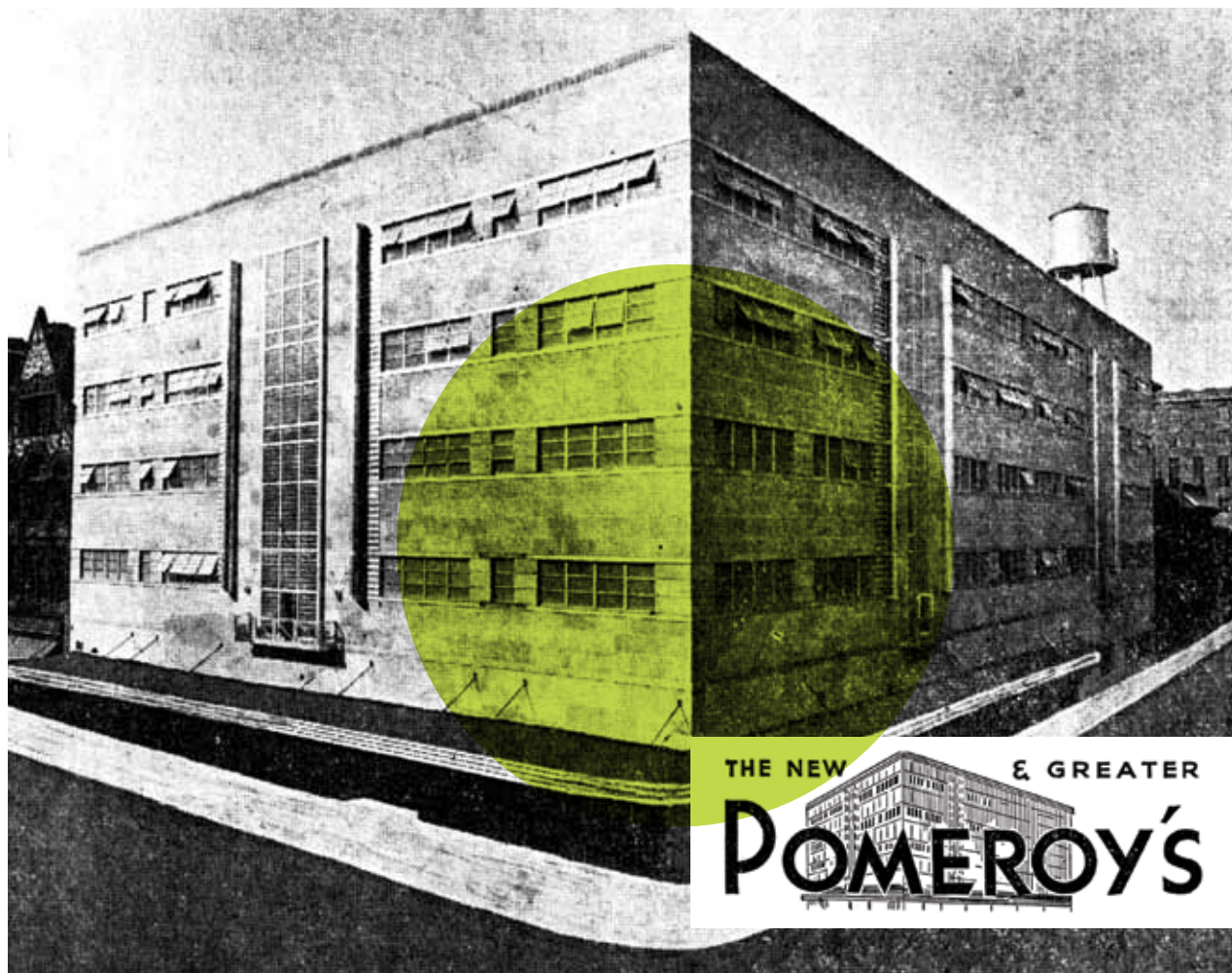
*Host of abc27 Outdoors TV and a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America.*



# AN AFTERNOON AT POMEROY'S

*From the tea room perch, a child could watch the world pass by.*

BY FLORENCE DITLOW



*Photo: courtesy of the Historic Harrisburg Association*

The American department store era started in the late 1800s with many-storied buildings large enough to display furnishings, clothing, toiletries and gifts. This mode of store downtown thrived in every large city from 1900 to the 1980s, when they succumbed to the suburban mall. In Harrisburg, the Pomeroy's department store included something even more special: a tea room, a lunch place for employees, neighbors and foot-weary shoppers.

Patterning themselves after English tea rooms, many department stores had tea rooms of a more palatial nature, high ceilinged rooms apart from the business traffic. Instead, Pomeroy's installed its tea room on the mezzanine level, hovering above the busy main floor. The room was narrow with windows adjacent to each booth, so one could gaze over the heads of unsuspecting shoppers, a welcome amusement for the antsy child or adult awaiting lunch.

I was about 6 years old when I went with Mom and my sister up the stairway to have lunch in the

tea room. The line for a booth was often crowded at noon, but this didn't worry us. We were ready for a rare treat—plus, fast food wasn't yet known. It wasn't so much the homemade soup, which the wise cook had loaded with corn and potatoes, or the toasted cheese with the crust cut off, or the orange ice sherbet served in a silver pedestal cup. It was special because the hideaway was a world apart and a respite from the usual.

A waitress in a starched gray dress welcomed us, offering my mother a cup of coffee while I looked at the purple-typed menu sheathed in plastic. She took our orders and then filled every coffee cup at the next table while accompanied by some unidentifiable instrumental serenade overhead. I was reminded to keep my elbows off the table and to chew my food: "If you don't do it, who will?"

We talked about our errands, then looking out the window, we saw a hand truck unloading boxes, ladies in stylish hats, a man surveying the tie counter while his wife tried on rhinestone clip style earrings...so much to see from our vantage point.

The hostess recognized Mom and stopped

by to say hello in the midst of the bustling lunch traffic. Of course, this was the era before burger chains, before talk of cholesterol, when shopping was often the highlight of the month, and there was a sugar bowl on every table.

The disappearance of Pomeroy's and other "ladies lunch" establishments apparently encouraged tea mavens to open up separate, standalone tea rooms offering an atmosphere I would describe as destinations for "afternoon ritual." These places, with their many varieties of tea and accompaniments like beautiful sandwiches and desserts, today serve as a fuel station for the adult soul. However, they could never spark the imagination of a child, wowed by a view of the busy world of grown-ups, that Pomeroy's once did. **B**

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*Florence Ditlow is a Harrisburg native, is author of "The Bakery Girls," a novel based on the lives of unique women and their adventures in Harrisburg. Contact the author to share memories at [www.thebakerygirls.net](http://www.thebakerygirls.net).*

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# 3rd IN THE BURG

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**City House B&B** • 915 N Front St • 903-2489  
• cityhousebb.com • City House Bed & Breakfast will host "YWCA's Cards with Heart" artist reception with works by Camp Hill artist Julie Riker. "Cards with Heart" supports the YWCA's 30-day Emergency Shelter for women and children. Please join us, 6-9p.



**Gallery@Second** • 608 N 2nd St • 233-2498 •  
galleryatsecond.com • Featured artists are Fiel Patricio and Jeff Wiles. Plus visit the Upstairs Gallery featuring more than 250 pieces of artwork by local artists. Music by Jonathan Frazier. 3rd in The Burg Special--10% discount on purchases made during the event. Refreshments served. 6-9p. Visit us on Facebook: GalleryAtSecond.



**The State Museum of Pennsylvania** • N 3rd St between North and Forster • 787-4980 • statemuseum.pa.org • The Susquehanna Art Museum will host a free reception for their new DOSHI Gallery exhibit entitled "Course and Discourse," a show that pairs art works by students with their professors, representing a number of central Pennsylvania colleges and universities, 6-8p.



**Office of State Representative Patty Kim**  
• State Capitol Complex, Irvis Office Building, Room G01  
• 783-9342 • pahouse.com/kim • Meet Rep. Kim and enjoy a reception with local art and local food, 5-8p.



**Midtown Scholar Bookstore** • 1302 N 3rd St • 236-1680  
• midtownscholar.com • Coffee tasting (12p) and tea tasting (2p) led by Midtown Scholar staff. TMI improv, 6p. Yellow Wall Gallery opening for "The Creative Sprouts Art Show," spring-themed artwork by children, 6-10p. Sketchcrawl with Harrisburg Sketchers & Nathaniel Gadsen Writing Group, 7p. Robinson's Rare Books features "Wondrous Vondrous: Etchings of Jan Vondrous." Music by Christopher Mark Jones, 8p.



**Mangia Qui/Suba** • 272 North St • 233-7358 • Mangia Qui and Suba Tapas Bar will feature local Brazilian artist Elide Hower and Zimbabwean artist Gerald Davidson. Music by Adela and Jude playing live at Suba, 9-11p. The featured cocktail is a \$7 Firefly, 5-11p.

Sponsored by



**Historic Harrisburg Resource Center** • N 3rd & Verbeke Sts • 233-4646 •  
historicharrisburg.com • Showcasing Harrisburg's black artists, featuring works by Nancy Mendes and Nate Horton, 5-9p.



**Whitaker Center** • 222 Market St •  
214-ARTS • Art on the Curved Wall: "Art Instructor Exhibition," 9:30a-8p.



**Little Amps Coffee Roasters**  
• 1836 Green St • littleampscoffee.com •  
"Unconscious Realities": Central Dauphin High School Photo II student work, 6-9p.



**The LGBT Center Gallery** • 1306 N 3rd St • 920-9534 • centralpalgbtcenter.org •  
Upcoming Artist Series: Portraits, drawings and sketches by Harrisburg's Sam White, 7-10p.



## Other Participants

• **The Fenêtre Gallery**, HACC Midtown 2, N 3rd & Reily Sts, 6-8p

• **The MakeSpace**, 1916 N 3rd St, 6-10p

• **Robinson's Rare Books & Fine Prints**, 1300 N 3rd St, 6-10p

• **St@rtup**, 1519 N 3rd St, 6-9p

• **Studio A**, 106 State St, 5-9p

• **Susquehanna Art Museum**, 1429 N 3rd St, 7:30-9p

• **Yellow Bird Cafe**, 1320 N 3rd St, 6-9p

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3RDINTHEBURG](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/3RDINTHEBURG)