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Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

STUART MALINA, *Music Director*

Markus Groh, Piano

Torke : Javelin
Bartok : Suite from *The Miraculous Mandarin*
Brahms : Piano Concerto No. 2
Markus Groh, Piano

Miraculous

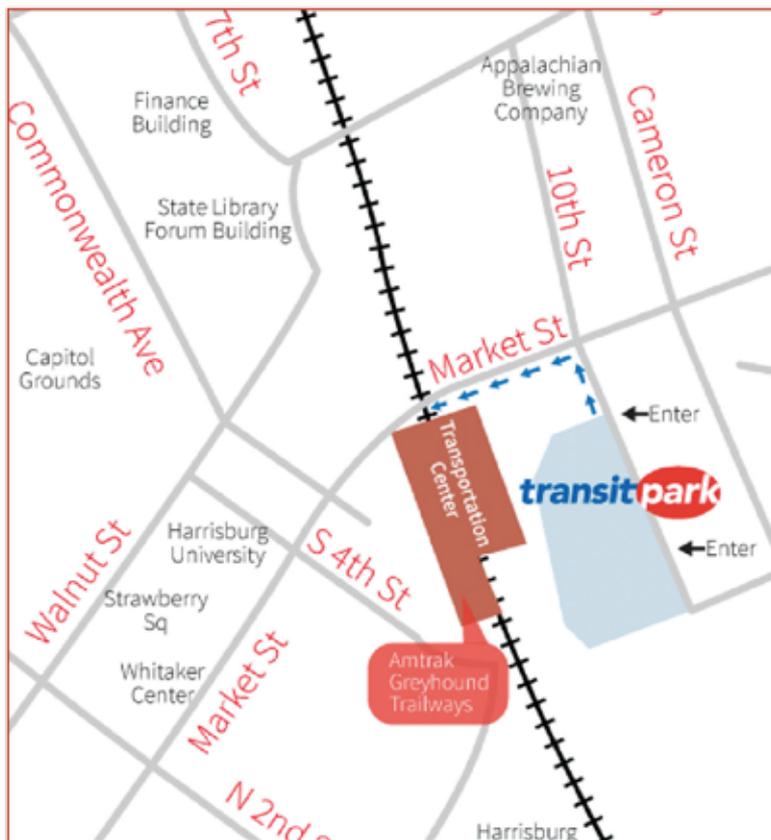
SATURDAY | JANUARY 11 | 8 PM
SUNDAY | JANUARY 12 | 3 PM

German virtuoso **Markus Groh** returns to the HSO to perform one of the piano repertoire's greatest challenges, the 2nd Piano Concerto of Johannes Brahms. Stuart Malina also conducts Michael Torke's *Javelin*, originally written for the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and now a concert hall favorite, and the suite from Bela Bartok's sensational ballet, *The Miraculous Mandarin*.

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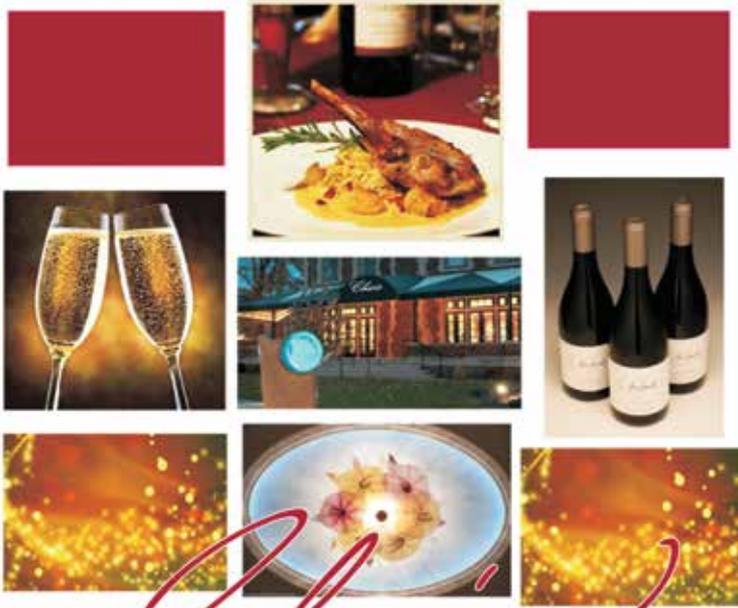


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COVER ART BY: JASON KREIGER
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The holidays, like so many things in this country, have become an occasion for irresponsible media to set people against one another.

At TheBurg, we say the heck with the manufactured divisions that help no one but a few thoughtless cable news hosts and politicians who are trying to get attention and sell books. We think that most people, regardless of their traditions and beliefs, can agree that their holidays involve two things—eating and gifting.

Let's open the presents first.

For December, we've beefed up our usual focus on small businesses with profiles of three shops: one in Harrisburg, one on the East Shore and one on the West Shore. Each is unique in its own right, with interesting histories and colorful owners who add to the texture of the stories. We also have included a holiday gift guide, so we hope you'll support the businesses that support TheBurg. Regardless, we urge you to visit our area's many independent merchants, who depend upon the holidays for a large part of their annual sales.

On the food side, Rosemary shares with readers a memory of her Christmas tradition growing up in an Italian household in Harrisburg, with a great meal, of course, the end result. Our wine columnist Steve pairs her recipe with a lesser-known Italian white as he provides advice on a number of quaffs perfectly suited for your holiday dinner.

Lastly, we'd like to congratulate Eric Papenfuse on his election last month as Harrisburg mayor. We wish him all the best with the deepest hope that his administration will practice responsible, accountable governance and foster unity in Pennsylvania's capital city.

LAWRANCE BINDA
Editor-in-Chief

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GENERAL AND LETTERS

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A TIME FOR THANKS

Our publisher finds plenty to be grateful for this past year.

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

Thanksgiving, just past, is perhaps my favorite holiday.

It is a time for being thankful “just because.” Coming every year on a Thursday, it guarantees a short week of work and a long weekend with family and friends. My mom, like her mother before her, makes an amazing turkey with all the many accompanying dishes. I can usually count on leftovers lasting all weekend long. I’ve always loved leftover turkey to go along with two days of college football. All in all, it is a wonderful time of the year.

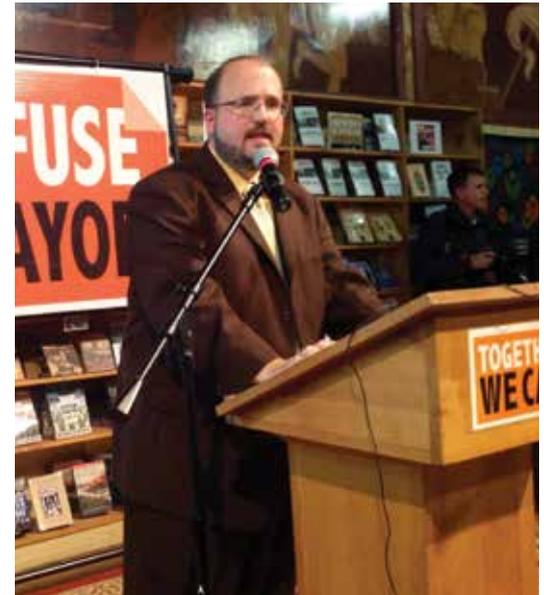
Thanksgiving also reminds all of us that giving thanks is universal. While not everyone can give or receive the gifts they may want during the coming holiday season, all can have a thankful heart. And a thankful heart is a happy heart for blessings small and large.

With that in mind, here is my list of “things I am thankful for” in Harrisburg:

- A terrific year of growth and development at TheBurg
- Paul’s writing, Megan’s design, Lauren’s sales, Andrea’s support and Larry’s leadership in pulling it all together
- Our Burg freelancers and photographers who contribute competently and faithfully
- All of TheBurg’s wonderful advertisers
- Select Capital Realty Group and John Ortenzio for being the first column sponsor of TheBurg
- Sutliff Chevrolet for supporting 3rd in The Burg and all its artists
- The receiver, the mayor, the governor, City Council and Judge Leadbetter for their diligent efforts with the financial recovery plan
- State Sen. Rob Teplitz and Rep. Patty Kim for the great leadership on behalf of our city and region
- Mayor-elect Eric Papenfuse and his family for their sacrifice to move Harrisburg forward
- WCI Partners’ president and operations manager for developing Harrisburg and making it a better place—and for being two of the finest people I know
- The fabulous designer at Urban Interiors and Smoke, her cat
- All the many residents of Olde Uptown who believe in OU and Harrisburg
- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney and First National Bank for staying in and moving into the city
- WebpageFx for believing in Harrisburg and moving 50 employees here next year
- The Harrisburg Chamber and CREDC for their support of our city and its many projects
- Harritown Development Corp. and their great leadership team
- GreenWorks for helping to develop and grow Midtown
- JEM Group, Trinity Construction and Renovations Co., for helping build our city
- Brickbox for converting outdated office space to residential living
- Harrisburg University for their continued commitment to our city
- HYP for continuing to make Harrisburg a great place to “live, work and play”
- Creative start-ups, like Stash, The MakeSpace, Yellow Bird Café and St@rtup
- Community Networking Resources for community development
- LaTorre Communications for helping Penn State communicate
- State Street Strategies for—well—great strategy and advice
- Greenlee Partners for great work for the city
- Triad Strategies for their consulting and advice
- City House B&B and their wonderful owners and great friends
- Michael Hanes’ leadership of the Whitaker Center and its excellent programming
- Messiah College for sending Harrisburg many wonderful graduates
- The members of the Harrisburg Capital PAC
- John Norton and Brian Ostella, just for being on Twitter
- Penn State Harrisburg and their development staff
- My former partners at Webclients, who helped me get here
- Bill O’Brien, for leading “our” football team (don’t argue, PSU counts here too)
- “The Tuscan” at Mangia Qui
- The fine bartenders, food and ambiance at Café Fresco
- Fine dining at Char’s along the Susquehanna River
- The “best latte in the nation” at Little Amps
- Running in fall on the river or through the tree canopy on Green Street
- Cheese pizza at Ciervo’s
- Anyone who takes time to call or email me and say “you left me off your list” (at least you read this far!)
- And all the other many folks who believe in our city in its time of need. Your faith will be rewarded in the coming years.

Happy Holidays!

J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.



PAPENFUSE ELECTED HARRISBURG MAYOR

Democrat Eric Papenfuse last month assumed the mantle of mayor-elect of Harrisburg, besting Republican candidate Dan Miller and write-in candidate Aaron Johnson.

Papenfuse won the race with 3,618 votes versus 2,333 for Miller and 1,213 for Johnson. Various others received another 121 write-in votes, including eight for former independent candidate Nevin Mindlin, who was tossed off the ballot after a successful petition challenge. Four votes went to Lewis Butts Jr., who campaigned as a write-in after losing the Democratic primary.

“The real victory will lie in the years ahead when our streets are clean, when our homes are safe, when our young professionals rush to get back to Harrisburg, rather than flee from it,” said Papenfuse, who, in his acceptance speech, encouraged his supporters at Midtown Scholar Bookstore to be humble and seek reconciliation with his opponents in the election.

“The true victory will lie in the days, the months, the years ahead when Pennsylvanians are once again proud of their capital,” he said. “When the people of Harrisburg once again cherish their homes, and when the rest of the nation connects Harrisburg with culture, prosperity and renaissance and not bankruptcy, despair and defeat.”

Running unopposed, Democrats Shamaine Daniels and Ben Allatt earned four-year terms on Harrisburg City Council, while sitting councilwomen Wanda Williams and Eugenia Smith were re-elected. Charles DeBrunner was elected in an uncontested race for city controller.

Papenfuse, DeBrunner and council members will be sworn in on Jan. 6.

For Harrisburg school board, Democrats Danielle Robinson, Patricia Whitehead Myers, James Thompson and Kenneth Mickens earned four-year terms. Monica Blackston-Bailey, LaTasha Frye and Adara Jackson each won two-year seats on the school board.

In Dauphin County races, Bill Tully outpolled Democrat Anne Gingrich Cornick for Court of Common Pleas judge, and incumbent Republican Stephen Farina won his contest for prothonotary against Democrat Kelly Summerford.



PARKING DEAL PASSED

The Harrisburg City Council last month approved one of the most important parts of the city's financial recovery plan, the long-term lease of its valuable parking assets.

The council authorized the city to enter into an agreement with the Pennsylvania Economic Development Financing Agency (PEDFA) and another with the Pennsylvania Department of General Services. They, in turn, will contract with a group known as Harrisburg First to run and enforce the city's on-street parking system.

The council also authorized the transfer of city-owned off-street parking to the Harrisburg Parking Authority, which is entering into its own agreements so that Harrisburg First can operate the HPA's parking garages and surface lots.

These steps are necessary as the city fulfills the requirements of Harrisburg Strong, the financial recovery plan designed to free the city of about \$600 million in debt, solve its long-term structural deficit and provide pools of funds for infrastructure and economic development.

TRASH PRIVATIZATION DEBATED

Harrisburg last month announced it has selected Republic Services to be its new trash hauler, sparking another squabble between the administration and City Council.

Chief Operating Officer Robert Philbin told council that a three-person team had chosen the country's second-largest waste hauler to collect and dispose of trash. He said the city would save about \$900,000 a year by privatizing waste collection, which currently is done by the city's Department of Public Works.

The administration had announced in March that it intended to issue an RFP to privatize trash service. Several firms then submitted bids, and the administration eventually selected Republic.

Council members, however, seemed surprised that the decision to privatize had been made definitively and that a hauler had been chosen. They also charged that they had been left out of the process.

The council's Public Works Committee then held several hearings on the issue, focused on such issues as trash fees, workers' jobs and the fact that equipment would have to be picked up in York each day. The proposed contract with Republic remained unresolved at press time.

FUNDS FOR GREENBELT RESTORATION

The Capital Area Greenbelt is a step closer to a significant improvement after the Harrisburg City Council last month agreed to dedicate \$10,000 for a major fix.

Members of the Capital Area Greenbelt Association appealed to the council to transfer funds dedicated for environmental projects to help remediate and protect the Paxtang Parkway section near Penbrook from further damage caused by storm water erosion.

Originally, the association requested \$20,000. However, Jim Warner, CEO of the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority, who attended the council meeting, said LCSWMA would split the cost, kicking in \$10,000. This month, LCSWMA is expected to close on its purchase of the city incinerator.

The city's portion of the funds will be derived from the "host fee" that Harrisburg receives as the site of an incinerator that accepts trash from outside municipalities.

In addition to the \$20,000, the association has received \$25,000 from the Kline Foundation, enabling it to qualify for a \$300,000 state grant to cover the extensive work on that portion of the Greenbelt, said Scott Shepler, an association volunteer.



BETSY'S BAKERY ARRIVES DOWNTOWN

Betsy's Bakery last month opened its second shop, serving its gluten-free baked goods from a prime location downtown.

Owners Betsy and Shannon Peffley began offering breads, sweets and sandwiches from a storefront right across the street from the state Capitol last occupied by Downtown Café.

Betsy said they decided to open in Harrisburg because so many of their customers from the first location in Camp Hill live on the East Shore. She added that there's a growing demand for gluten-free products.

"We are 100 percent gluten-free," she said. "Our customers with celiac disease or who have gluten-free needs appreciate that so they won't get sick."

In addition to baked goods and sandwiches made with Boar's Head meats, the bakery soon will offer soups and paninis, said Betsy.

"We never expected our business to take off like it has," she said. "We knew there was a need, but didn't know it'd be so great."

Betsy's Bakery is located at 240 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. Hours are Monday to Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. The shop can be reached at 717-236-9901 or at betsysbakery.com. The original shop is at 115 St. John's Church Rd., Camp Hill.

WATER/SEWER RATES GOING UP

Water and sewer rates for city residents are about to go up significantly, according to the Harrisburg Authority's proposed budget for 2014.

The budget, which had not been officially adopted as of press time, projects an average increase of around \$325 per customer per year. That amounts to a nearly 50 percent hike to current rates, which average around \$687 annually.

Shannon Williams, the executive director of the Harrisburg Authority, explained that the increased rates are necessary to pay for long-overdue investments in infrastructure. Harrisburg's aging water and sewer system has not been adequately maintained for years, and it now requires expensive repairs, Williams said.

"No one likes to pay more for utility services—including me. But the reality is that there were more than 40 sinkholes identified in Harrisburg in 2013. Just one of them—the famous 4th Street sinkhole—cost almost \$1 million to repair. We cannot continue to punt on these decisions," she said.

The rate increase comes on the heels of several weeks of customer concerns about expensive utility bills. Last month, City Councilwoman Sandra Reid devoted most of a public works committee meeting to water and sewer charges after she received a bill in the mail totaling several hundred dollars.

That total did not reflect a rate increase, however, but was the result of nearly 18 months of inaccurate bills, which Reid had been receiving because of problems with the city's meter system. Batteries in the devices that transmit meter readings to the city's electronic database have been expiring at unexpected rates, requiring the city to estimate water usage for properties across the city. Those estimates, which tended to be lower than customers' actual usage, led to months of undercharging for Reid and several other residents.

In her announcement of the proposed 2014 budget, Williams tied the meter-battery problem to the infrastructure problem, saying both reflected the consequences of city officials deferring necessary investments onto future generations.

"It's time to make the necessary investments in our future," said Williams.

CAPITOL VIEW SELLS

The unfinished Capitol View Commerce Center was sold last month in a bankruptcy proceeding to an out-of-area warehouse, distribution and storage company.

Watson, Pa.-based Moran Industries bought the 215,000-square-foot structure at N. Cameron and Herr streets in Harrisburg, including almost nine acres of land, for about \$250,000.

Moran plans to finish the building next year then use about half the space for its own offices and rent out the other half, according to the company.

The building has sat as an incomplete shell since 2008, when unpaid workers walked off the job. Two years ago, Capitol View developer David R. Dodd pled guilty to federal charges of money laundering and misuse of government funds in connection with the project.



NEW ANTIQUES/ COLLECTIBLES SHOP

The good news keeps coming for Cameron Street, as a new crafts and re-sale co-op has opened near Paxton Street.

Crafty Antiques and Collectibles debuted in late October, featuring everything from antique furniture to old toys to holiday items.

Owners Kathy Clark and Rosemary Hibala rent out space in the 2,400-square-foot shop to a variety of vendors who showcase and sell their items. Though the long-time friends just opened their store, they hope soon to double its size by expanding next door.

The shop at 712 S. Cameron St. is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Recently, several new businesses have announced plans to occupy space nearby on Cameron Street. Business partners Richard Hefelfinger and Phil Dobson plan to open a blues club and restaurant across the street at 819 S. Cameron St., while Dobson says he will remake 1119 S. Cameron St. into an entertainment and events space.

Crafty Antiques and Collectibles can be reached at 717-547-6032 or CraftyAntiquesPa@gmail.com.

RECEIVERSHIP EXTENSION EXPECTED

The state last month requested an extension of Harrisburg's receivership for another two years.

C. Alan Walker, secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, filed a petition in Commonwealth Court asking for the extension, which would run through December 2015. Most elements of the Harrisburg Strong financial recovery plan should be implemented by then.

Separately, Commonwealth Court last month gave receiver William Lynch the authority to sign documents related to the Harrisburg Strong plan on behalf of city Controller Dan Miller.

Judge Bonnie Brigance Leadbetter made the ruling after Miller had not signed off on contracts for key parts of the plan, including for the sale of the city incinerator and the long-term lease of the parking system. Both deals are expected to close this month.

CHANGING HANDS:

- Adrian St., 2453: W. Breeze to S. McKune, \$58,500
- Berryhill St., 2259: PA Deals LLC to J. Vergis, \$65,000
- Boas St., 122: D. & J. Mowery to J. Sadlock, \$115,900
- Boas St., 1937: S. Lopez et al to EB & ZEE LLC, \$66,500
- Briggs St., 233: A. & P. Cowell to T. Harris, \$117,000
- Cumberland St., 1416: PNL Penn Properties LP to T. Lewis, \$35,000
- Green St., 3030: E. & K. Peck to J. Luck Jr. & K. Kyper, \$220,000
- Herr St., 260: D. Leaman to S. Bruder & M. Richards, \$165,500
- Maclay St., 425: D. & J. Boyle to D. Perez, \$31,738
- Market St., 1249, 1253, 1255 & 3 S. 13th St.: Hill Café Partners to Hill Café 1249 LP, \$500,278
- Market St., 1859: M. & D. Nichols to Z. Reeves, \$105,900
- N. 4th St., 1324: L. Jones & J. Lambright to P. Little, \$96,000
- N. 4th St., 2030: B. Lerew to I. Alderton, \$82,000
- N. 6th St., 1500: 1500 SPE LP to A. Gulotta, \$558,158
- N. Front St., 2601: Radnor Realty to J.A. Hartzler, \$200,000
- Pennwood Rd., 3135: PA Deals LLC to T. Smith, \$118,000
- S. 20th St., 1208: T. Nguyen & T. Pham to M. Nguyen, \$112,005
- S. 26th St., 638: N. Reohr to J. Zimmerman, \$69,900
- Rudy Rd., 2145: J. Holmes & BAC Tax Services Corp. to M. & K. DeRosa, \$162,900
- Rumson Dr., 2920: A. & M. Tscherneff to W. Quezada & M. Cedeno, \$34,000
- Rumson Dr., 2983: PI Capitol LLC to C. Shenk, \$64,900
- Rumson Dr., 2991: Trusted Source Capital LLC to PA Deals LLC, \$40,000
- Susquehanna St., 1526: P. Mohr to C. Butcher, \$104,500
- Susquehanna St., 1725: Fannie Mae to M. Gojmerac & C. Roma, \$48,000
- Vernon St., 1308 & 113 S. 13th St.: Stevens Emmanuel United to True Worshipers Ministries, \$55,000

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HARRISBURG'S CHANCE

A cursed city no more?

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

“I knew I'd be arrested if I spent another night in Harrisburg. Cursed city!”

Jack Kerouac made that observation after a rough evening, much of it spent walking along the banks of the Susquehanna River with a hobo, while passing through our little city.

Indeed, it often seems that Harrisburg is cursed, at least since the late 1940s when Kerouac made the cross-country trip that resulted in the famous beat generation novel, “On the Road.” In the post-war period, the city has experienced almost unrelenting bad news ranging from de-industrialization to repeated floods to depopulation to profoundly irresponsible governance to near bankruptcy. And that's the short list.

Harrisburg, though, now has the chance—the *chance*—to start anew, to move in a fresh direction. In January, the city will have new leadership and will begin to seriously implement the Harrisburg Strong financial recovery plan. In a city's history, such opportunities for radical change don't come about often.

No doubt, Mayor-elect Eric Papenfuse will face tremendous pressure on big issues once he takes the oath of office in January. He will need to assemble and deploy competent managers and staff; get up to speed on how best to handle the large, entrenched bureaucracy; ensure that critical services are delivered without interruption; and carry out many elements of the complicated Strong plan, among other overwhelming issues.

There are, though, numerous small things that Papenfuse could do immediately, with little effort, which would go a long way towards starting out right. Seeing to these would indicate a new day in Harrisburg, a clear break from the often-toxic, disruptive, high-handed Reed/Thompson approach to governing, which too often isolated the mayor and turned potential allies into enemies.

Court and respect City Council: Even in Harrisburg's strong-mayor form of government, council members wield substantial power. It's hard to get anything meaningful done without their support. So, meet with them, listen to them, involve them early in important matters and show that you respect them and their concerns. Also, as I've said before, don't just send your underlings to council meetings. Go yourself, listen attentively and make yourself available as needed. Thompson's original sin as mayor was immediately going to the mat with council over her first budget, which set off four years of often-pointless combat.

Follow the rules: Time and again, Reed and Thompson stumbled by not following proper rules and procedures. Reed knew the rules but habitually

chose to ignore or go around them for the sake of expediency or to avoid checks on his power. Thompson often didn't seem to understand processes or their importance, such as when she bypassed mandated principles when launching a redraft of the city's comprehensive plan. Not following established rules is an unforced, avoidable error, one that will be exposed and has nothing but downside.

Be gracious and humble: In his acceptance speech as mayor-elect, Papenfuse said, “I'm a stronger and humbler man than the one who started this race.” I hope that's so, as humility has been in short supply in the mayor's office for a long time. Here are few ways to show the public that an attitude adjustment has arrived in city hall. First, get rid of Thompson's wasteful security detail, car and driver. Second, don't refer to yourself in the third person. Third, ditch other trappings of the office that have built up over time, such as the ridiculous “mayor's tent” at festivals. The mayor of Harrisburg is a local public servant of 49,500 people, not a head of state, not a dictator and not chosen by God. There must be daily understanding and acceptance that the mayor serves the people, not the other way around.

Make the past public: Papenfuse spent years as an outspoken critic of Reed's financing schemes and as an advocate for good government. Therefore, I trust that he will make good on his vow to release documents that may be relevant to how Harrisburg tumbled into the financial abyss. I'm not one who likes to pick at old wounds, but city residents, who pay each day for past wrongs, deserve as full an accounting as possible.

Expect criticism and don't take it personally: As mayor of Harrisburg, you will be criticized constantly. You must accept that criticism comes with the office and take it in stride, even with good humor, even when you think it's unfair. My best advice: ignore it entirely and move forward with your job. Do not let it distract you. If you believe press criticism is egregious, follow procedures to meet with editors and reporters. Do not call reporters to scream at them or refuse to meet with them because you feel they've “disrespected the office of the mayor,” both of which have happened to us.

Lastly, Papenfuse must always keep in mind his primary job—to provide a core set of services to residents who are paying for them through taxes and fees. The mayor is an administrator elected (hired) to head up the citizens' collective that we call municipal government, which pools money to purchase things like police, fire and sanitation services. Somewhere during the past 30 years, the mayoralty morphed into something else, a strange mix of power-obsessed CEO, celebrity and monarch. To regain our bearings as a city, the mayor must return to his traditional role as a manager charged with delivering critical services to the 11.4 square miles that we call Harrisburg.

Papenfuse could begin to make these remedies immediately, from his first day in office. They won't cost a dime and could well set the right tone within the government and with residents for years to come. Doing these things may help separate Harrisburg from its long-held reputation as “cursed city.” **E**

Lawrence Binda is editor-in-chief of TheBurg.

“I knew
I'd be
arrested if
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another
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Cursed
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Jack Kerouac

BAH, HARRISBURG!

It's time to celebrate, not Scrooge, your city.

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

It's that time of year again—the end of it. It's a time to reflect, wrap up and peer ahead. Looking over 2013 in the city of Harrisburg is no easy task, though.

In fact, it's downright daunting. It was tiresome enough to go through it in real time—the tome-like plans, the endless public hearings, the continual chatter of truth and rumor in every nook and cranny of the city. Not to mention the constant burden of dissatisfying public services and the overgrowth of weeds, trash and strife.

Many of us may wonder, "What's the point of exhausting oneself with the thought of going through it again?"

It's enough to make us say, "Bah humbug!"

Humbug. We hear this word and use it profusely during this time of year, but its actual meaning is not commonly known or even considered. We just say it. Humbug.

It means deceit. Humbug is something devised as a fraud to mislead. Ebenezer Scrooge thought Christmas was humbug. Prior to coming face to face with his ghosts, he thought the yuletide season to be an overly sentimental occasion drenched in falseness and pretense.

Of course, as we all know, his mind was changed. Easier said than done in real life, most especially here in Harrisburg.

There's lots of humbug around here right now. Humbug is being thrown around loosely and easily.

Some people think the outcome of the mayoral election is humbug.

Some people think the receiver's recovery plan is humbug.

Some people believe the whole city is humbug.

While that attitude can be accused of being overly sour and peevish, there is indeed humbug in the city that we can all agree on.

It's humbug that the city has been devastated by years of fiscal mismanagement and defective governance. It's humbug that the capital city is physically crumbling and breaking. It's humbug that this small

city along the river is deficient in pride and unity. It's humbug that the region scoffs at us. Humbug.

But, enough humbug already. Where are the ghosts to guide us to realization of other perspectives? Harrisburg has plenty of those—ghosts, that is. If we follow them, will our minds be changed so, like Scrooge, we end up shouting happily at the tops of our lungs in supreme celebration of a second chance given?

To say it is—or to attempt to make decisions like things are done now as they've been done before—is humbug. The next phase of Harrisburg's prosperity is greatly contingent on the people who live, work and visit here and the decisions they make to pay attention, participate and promote.

With the implementation of the recovery plan, the playing field has been set. If all goes as planned, the massive debt will be eliminated, the

sense and have lasting power to make Harrisburg prosperous.

The ideas are out there, topics of fruitful and merry conversations. There are suggestions on how to establish a smooth-running government to give us the semblance of competence we're missing. There are recommendations for ways to strategically approach fixing the infrastructure and strengthening the fabric of community. There is support for smartly spending money for vital and necessary projects. There are volunteers, nonprofits and businesses standing ready to fill the gaps.

The city's recovery will only succeed if we make it happen together.

There's much being developed as cheerful and optimistic souls in the city discuss ways to make Harrisburg's future comprehensively better. Naturally, some minds will not be dramatically changed by such ideas. There will be people who will not see the virtue of the offered proposals.

So be it.

However, one thing should be conceded—the efforts aren't humbug. Someone may not like certain suggestions for various reasons, but, as long as the ideas come without deceit or pretense, they should be heard. They are ideas, specters of possibility. Creations of the situation we're in. The fact of the matter is that Harrisburg must be handled smartly, positively, broadly and innovatively. And almost anything and everything should be a possibility.

It's precisely that type of approach that will bring Harrisburg the gifts of fiscal stability, responsible and competent leadership and an influx of healthy businesses and residents.

Harrisburg has potential, incredible potential. This little capital city along the river. Humbug will ruin us. So let's leave it behind as we move forward into the new year. **E**

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

www.todaysthe dayhbg.com



Absolutely. But how so? What has to be done?

We have to be engaged, get creative, be bold and find courage to do what needs to be done. There's no more time for anything else. We're at a crossroads, and, despite what the most pessimistic among us may say, we do have say in the direction this city goes.

The future of the city is ours for the taking.

Nothing is business as usual anymore.

city's budget will be balanced, the incinerator will be gone, the parking system will be leased and generating revenue. Water and sewer operations have already been transferred to the experts, and, with a new administration about to take the reigns of City Hall, there's new organization on the horizon.

As 2014 is about to commence, now is the time to generate community solutions and decisions that make



SMELL YA LATER!

WE BID ADIEU TO THE HARRISBURG
INCINERATOR—40 YEARS, MANY BREAKDOWNS,
A BOTCHED UPGRADE, DUBIOUS FINANCINGS
AND A NEAR-CITY BANKRUPTCY LATER.

BY PAUL BARKER

Later this month, about a week before Christmas, Harrisburg should complete its sale of the facility that the journalist Paul Beers once called the “infernal furnace.”

The Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) will pony up somewhere between \$126 and \$132 million for it, helping the facility shed the \$360 million or so in debt it accumulated over the years. The purchase will also, it’s hoped, help it ditch the adjectives—“troubled,” “ill-fated,” “botched,” not to mention “infernal”—that have historically preceded its name.

In the meantime, though, those adjectives will continue to amuse employees like Guy Lefever, who started working at the incinerator in 2009 and has always known it as a functional facility.

“People come up here, and they’re blown away,” he told me, one morning in late September. “They’re thinking it’s just gonna be a run-down building, and trash laying all over the place. And it’s not.”

We were standing a few dozen yards from an ash heap, where the scorched remains of solid waste from households in Pennsylvania and New Jersey arrive fresh from the burners all day. A couple of ravens scavenged for surviving morsels. The land around the incinerator is close to capacity, so a pair of trucks spends most days at this heap, loading ash onto haulers that will take it elsewhere.

Lefever, a solidly built man in a clean, blue dress shirt, with a doughy lower jaw like Bill Murray’s, starts many sentences with, “So basically,” in the manner of someone whose job often involves translating technical terms. “So basically,” he said, as we watched the vehicles work amid a thin cloud of ash, “the truck comes up, dumps it out, they spread it out, stockpile it, and then load these trucks to go out to the different landfills.”

According to Lefever, “troubled” is not the only misnomer attached to his place of work. The incinerator is also not technically an incinerator. Covanta Energy, its operator, prefers the term “EfW,” for “Energy-from-Waste,” although the amount of stock you put into this distinction probably says something about your industry. The Harrisburg incinerator achieves the “E” in “EfW” by using the heat from its burners to produce steam, which, in turn, powers a turbine, producing electricity. Nonetheless, some environmentalists have condemned incineration as a wasteful and hazardous method of dealing with trash.

Reconciling the claims of energy companies and their watchdogs can be an exercise in futility. Covanta’s website refers to EfW electricity as “clean, renewable energy,” relying on a definition of “renewable” as “derived from natural processes that are replenished constantly.” But a fact sheet from GAIA, the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, contests this pretty much absolutely. “Municipal waste,” GAIA says, “is non-renewable, consisting of discarded materials such as paper, plastic and glass that are derived from finite natural resources such as forests that are being depleted at unsustainable rates.”

Tours of the incinerator start in a squat, brick outbuilding, where a colorful graphic mounted on the wall of a conference room provides an overview of the facility’s moving parts. We stood in front of the graphic for about 40 minutes while I tried to picture the combustion process Lefever was describing within the abstract boundaries of a line drawing. Then we put on hard hats and safety vests and headed for the entrance.

People like Lefever often refer to “feeding” the incinerator, and the first stage in the long meal occurs on what’s known as the tipping floor, where garbage trucks pull up one at a time and “tip” their cargo out onto a cement bay. As we approached, a short line of trucks curled back from the entrance, waiting their turn. Inside, the floor was loud with the grumble of diesel engines and the warning peals of heavy machinery going in reverse. It smelled like wet garbage, but not in an oppressive way. “It gets better over the winter,” Lefever said. We watched as a large hauler backed up and tipped its load. As it drove forward, a block of dripping waste slid out, in the exact shape of its container. Then it settled, its edges melting away, until it was just another pile of trash.

The price the haulers pay to deposit their waste is known as a tipping fee, and it’s the primary source of income for the facility. It’s also the subject of a fair amount of controversy. Different municipalities are charged different rates, for reasons having to do both with volumes of trash and other, more political considerations. Historically, Dauphin County’s fees have been drastically lower than the city’s; last summer, the city’s fee was \$200 per ton, while the county’s was \$77. Under the terms of the sale to LCSWMA, the fees will gradually become more equitable over the next couple of decades, until both the city and county are paying \$115. But, in the short term, the city’s fee will remain much higher.

Preserving the disparity is one of the less savory requirements of the state-appointed receiver’s recovery plan for the city. Higher fees mean more revenue for LCSWMA, which, in turn, translates to a higher sale price for the facility. The receiver’s team viewed the higher sale price as critical, because the proceeds will help pay down the



incinerator debt, but many residents are still unhappy about it.

In addition to paying more to dump, the city will also be contractually obliged to deliver 35,000 tons of waste to the incinerator each year. Many residents aren’t particularly happy about this, either. But if trash is the facility’s food, then the burners, like teenagers, need to be constantly eating. If there isn’t sufficient trash to keep the fires burning, they must be restarted with gas, at cost to the owners. The demand for trash is so great, in fact, that Lefever must occasionally bid for waste from outside municipalities. (In the olden days, he said, some incinerators may have even accepted trash for free, because “they were making a god-awful amount on their electric side.”)

From the tipping floor, we headed to the control room, where a shift supervisor named Troy was watching a set of big-screen monitors. “So if this was MTV Cribs, you remember that show?” Lefever said. “Well, this is where the magic happens.”

From this station, Troy could keep an eye on temperature levels, burn rate, flame height, steam output and just about everything that happens to the trash once it enters the burners. Some screens showed color-coded blueprints of the equipment, spotted with lines of data, and some provided live camera feeds from inside the facility. On one feed, lead-colored ash trundled along on a conveyor belt. On others, unbelievably, you could watch the garbage actually burning. Tiny fisheye lenses, cooled by constant air streams, provided the images: ghostly orange-and-black blurs, smoldering at temperatures as high as 2,000 degrees.

Troy, like Lefever, spoke in industrial shorthand. (“So here’s your pit, crane operator feeds grapples in here, trash goes down the chute, and here you got feed rams that are pushing your fuel off, you know...”) They talked about “wet stuff,” meaning moist, slow-burning trash, which produces dark spots in the flames on the video feed. Whoever is manning the control room must monitor the amount of wet stuff in each burner, in order to ensure a well-paced, thorough burn. “If your fuel would be a



consistently steady fuel,” Troy said, “you wouldn’t have to do much. But trash is trash. One load comes in, it’s all paper, and the next load comes in, and it’s restaurant waste. You got a constant different waste stream.”

From the control room, we headed out to observe the crane operator, who spends the day plucking up trash from the tipping floor and feeding it to the burner.

He was sitting inside a glass box, manipulating an enormous grappling claw. Essentially, his job is to manipulate a smelly, 70-foot tall teddy picker. He dropped the claw, closed it around a massive clump of trash, and then hoisted it to one of the chutes and let it spill. Occasionally, rather than empty his claw into a chute, he’ll unload it on one of his stockpiles along the edges of the floor. The stockpiles keep the tipping floor clear for incoming trucks, but they also allow for the mixing of wet and dry waste to achieve a more consistent burn.

We passed back along a catwalk between the boilers and stepped outside. Lefever pointed out the baghouses: big, funnel-shaped filters that strip particulates from emissions en route to the smokestack. The effectiveness of these filters is something environmentalists also question, although the state Department of Environmental Protection, which monitors the facility’s emissions, has issued few violations in recent years, and the ones it has have been minor. “Really, you don’t see anything coming out of the stack,” Lefever said. “It’s all being captured.”

I looked up. The stack seemed to be emitting nothing more than little white wisps of cloud.

The things that have troubled the incinerator in recent years have afflicted it almost from the beginning. In September 1966, City Council approved a project that, at the time, was projected to cost \$4.5 million. By the time the facility came online, five years later, that cost had nearly tripled. After repeated breakdowns, it nearly tripled again.

Then, as now, the incinerator became a measure of the office of the mayor: both the scale of its ambitions and its command of city finances. Paul Beers, surveying the facility’s early history in several columns for the Patriot, recalled that in 1969 Mayor Al Straub called it “the Rolls-Royce of incinerators.” His successor, Harold Swenson, condemned it as “a facility that far exceeds our needs and our ability to pay.”

And then, as now, the trouble came mostly from two quarters: the difficulty of securing a sufficient waste stream and the need for its technology, never quite ready for prime time, to comply with environmental regulations. Beers reported that, in order to pay for itself, the incinerator needed to run at 85 percent of its capacity. It routinely ran at 60 percent. Neighboring municipalities, Beers wrote, could not be cajoled into committing to the city’s project.

In addition, the incinerator was continually plagued with mechanical problems. In 1978, it caught fire. In 1979, there was a cave-in, the aftermath of which, Beers wrote, “epitomized all the comedy and tragedy” of the facility. Its manager, Jack Karper, “hurriedly rescued the garbage reserve so there would be trash to feed the flames and make steam... Explained a jubilant Karper, “Thank God we saved the garbage. It represents dollars.”

In 1984, after years of regulatory violations—largely over where the city was storing waste after burning it—Mayor Stephen Reed corralled the operation under a newly minted “Department of Incineration and Steam Generation.” Some improvements were made, including the addition of a new steam line, but the compliance issues

persisted. In 1985, an inspection revealed the city was burning a greater-than-allowable quantity of sewer sludge. In 1988, a succession of tests on the smokestack discovered emissions violations, and ash repeatedly escaped the site and landed on private property. Eventually, the city reached a consent agreement with the state Department of Environmental Resources and completed major capital repairs in 1990 and 1991.

In 1993, Reed engineered a sale of the facility to the Harrisburg Authority. The deal ushered in what you might charitably call an era of creative financing. The “sale,” to an authority of the city’s own making, drew revenues to the city of around \$27 million, and, at the same time, saddled the incinerator with an additional \$34 million in debt—the acquisition price, plus \$7 million in bonds for capital improvements. In other words, the incinerator acquired substantial debt that had nothing to do with expanding its operations, ensuring its regulatory compliance or improving its equipment. The pattern would be repeated through out the 1990s, until the debt load had climbed to nearly \$100 million.

The year 2003 was something of a watershed. Dauphin County had pledged its waste stream to the incinerator, promising revenues that might have been sufficient to pay its bills, except that the federal Clean Air Act threatened to sharply limit the facility’s capacity. The city faced a choice. It either could shut down the operation, assuming its debt, or it could borrow once more to retrofit the incinerator and increase its capacity, with the hopes of generating enough revenue to cover the cost. The city opted for the retrofit.

City officials, for several years prior, had been eyeing a potential contractor that could upgrade the facility at the lowest possible price. The contractor, Barlow Projects, had installed a burner in Perham, Minn., using “churn-and-burn” technology that used forced air to circulate the waste, rather than moving grates, which were constantly breaking down in the Harrisburg facility. The Perham installation’s capacity was 50 to 100 tons per day—far short of the 800 tons the city required. Nonetheless, Barlow concluded it could complete the retrofit. The upgraded incinerator, in Barlow’s projection, would produce a cash surplus of \$57 million by 2028.

Barlow, though, did not complete the project on time or on budget, and ultimately the firm was fired. The company’s projections of a cash surplus relied on dubious assumptions about electricity prices and interest rates, not to mention its own construction costs. A forensic audit, commissioned by the Harrisburg Authority and completed in 2012, pointedly questioned why Barlow was even allowed to submit a financial analysis of its own project—which, furthermore, was not subject to a public bid. The decision “to allow Barlow to certify the feasibility of its technical approach, to estimate the project’s cost and purported financial benefit, and then to obtain the contracts to actually conduct the work, appears questionable at best,” the audit says. “There are no indications that the City, the Authority or their advisors identified the conflict or potential problems.”

But the city, the authority and its advisors, following the pattern set by the 1993 sale, were far past the point of measuring debt against any future capacity to pay. Like the incinerator, feeding new trash to old trash to produce electricity, they were issuing new debt to pay for old debt. By the time Covanta was hired to finish the project, the facility’s debt totaled \$280 million. The authority could no longer service it, and the city, which had promised to pay in its place, was on the hook.

The trick of municipal finance—in a sense, the trick of finance generally—is how to make something out of nothing. A city wants to build an incinerator, but it has no money. What should it do?

If the city were like me, and followed the advice of my old boss (“stay out of debt, kid”), it would sock away a little bit of each year’s revenues until it had enough for an incinerator. The problem with this method is that it would lead to the building of exactly zero incinerators.

An alternative is to borrow now and pay the bill later. The favored tool of municipal borrowing is the bond issue. A bond is a promise to pay, and in the case of a capital project like an incinerator, it comes with a certain built-in elegance: the promise sows the seeds of its own fulfillment. The debt builds the thing that earns the revenue to pay the debt. Between the tipping fees and the electricity sales, the incinerator should be able to pay all of its workers and still have enough left over to pay back what’s been borrowed. The city comes away owing nothing, and, in the meantime, careers have been made, families supported, kids sent to college, and everyone has avoided being drowned in garbage.

“THE TRICK OF MUNICIPAL FINANCE—IN A SENSE, THE TRICK OF FINANCE GENERALLY—IS HOW TO MAKE SOMETHING OUT OF NOTHING. A CITY WANTS TO BUILD AN INCINERATOR, BUT IT HAS NO MONEY. WHAT SHOULD IT DO?”

The term for debt that can be paid back with user rates is “self-liquidating.” When a local government classifies debt as self-liquidating, it’s essentially reassuring taxpayers that their taxes will never be raised to cover the debt, because the project will pay for itself. It’s important for governments to make this classification, because state law imposes strict limits on how much a municipality can borrow, based on its revenues. Self-liquidating debt doesn’t count against the limit, which frees up the municipality to borrow for other projects.

In Pennsylvania, the entity charged with watching the taxpayers’ back in the municipal borrowing process is the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). When a local government wants to issue new debt, it must submit a five-page statement to DCED tallying its various outstanding obligations. The third page of this statement, known as an 8110(b) certificate, requires the government unit to sign off on a one-sentence pledge that says, in essence, that any debt that was classified as self-liquidating in the past is still self-liquidating. A government that gives this assurance is said to have filed a “clean” 8110(b).

On Oct. 4, 2012, the Pennsylvania Senate held the first of two hearings to try to determine what, exactly, had gone wrong in Harrisburg. In a period lasting just under 20 years, the debt load on an incinerator that the city had bought for \$27 million had ballooned to nearly \$350 million. Huge portions of the borrowings were used to refinance prior debt and generate “working capital,” to cover the costs of operation. A remarkably small portion of the debt went towards actual improvements on the facility, which should have been an indication the project had ceased to pay for itself. Yet each time it borrowed, the city filed a clean 8110(b).

One question for the legislators was how the city was permitted to keep classifying the incinerator debt as self-liquidating. Steve Goldfield, a financial advisor to the state-appointed receiver who contributed to the forensic audit, raised this question during the hearing. In addition, he asked, if the debt didn’t go towards improvements, what was it spent on?

Goldfield’s testimony lasted two hours. After Goldfield, the senators listened to representatives from DCED, to former board members of the Harrisburg Authority, to former Mayor Reed, and to a handful of lawyers and financial advisors, among others. Most of those involved at the time of the borrowings came supplied with reasons why they weren’t to blame. DCED was desperately short-staffed and could rarely give more than a cursory review to the assurances made by local officials. Local officials relied on the advice of professionals, not being qualified themselves to assess

technical projects. The professionals, for the most part, fobbed off culpability onto other professionals.

Goldfield, in his testimony, was careful to point out the many factors outside the city’s control. Revenues for an incinerator project were particularly volatile: there was the unpredictability of electricity prices, the unreliable flow of trash, the need to comply with environmental regulations. But Goldfield also described the disturbing pattern that emerged with each new bond issue. Harrisburg wasn’t just borrowing to fix the incinerator; it was using the construction project as a back door to extra debt above its limit.

Each time the Harrisburg Authority issued new debt, it sought guarantees from Harrisburg and from Dauphin County, and in most instances, the guarantees were provided. There’s nothing irregular about guarantees in and of themselves. Municipal bonds, like any other form of debt, have interest rates tied to the amount of risk the bondholder assumes in purchasing them. To reduce the amount of risk, and therefore the interest rate, the borrowing entity can seek a guarantee from a municipality, which pledges to pay bondholders in the event of default.

But the city and the county also charged the authority fees for those guarantees, in the several millions of dollars. In his testimony, Goldfield was quick to note the suspect nature of these charges, especially as applied by the city. In 23 years of working in municipal finance, he said, he had only seen one other instance of a municipality charging its own authority a fee for a bond guarantee.

In addition, there was something peculiar about the way the fee amount was calculated. “The guarantee fee, through serendipity or something else, matched the structural deficit in the city’s budget,” Goldfield said. In short, each time the authority issued new debt, the city sliced off a piece exactly large enough to fill a hole in the general fund.

It has occasionally been said that, under receiver William Lynch’s plan, various creditors and professionals will receive what they’re owed, while the city’s taxpayers receive nothing. Particularly in regards to the incinerator, this interpretation has some intuitive appeal. The facility, the thinking goes, was built with Harrisburg-taxpayer-backed borrowing, but now it will be sold to enrich the coffers of some other municipality.

The problem with this argument is that it skips over everything that taxpayers received under Reed. Tax revenues were insufficient to cover the budget, yet, for years, tax rates stayed low. This was true, in fact, for rates across the board, including water and sewer rates and fees for using public parks. Part of the reason there’s been so much grumbling lately is that prices that ought to have gone up gradually each year are now playing dramatic catch-up.

It’s one thing to be cheated and lied to, of course. The state attorney general has announced an investigation of whether any of Harrisburg’s officials or their advisors cheated or lied, and the receiver’s plan includes a hope for some civil claims from the professionals who escorted the city down a financial hole. But the borrowed money didn’t all go to a few suits in city hall. Might some part of the deal reflect Harrisburg’s payment for two decades of willful ignorance?

A very small portion of the incinerator’s revenues has nothing to do with burners or electricity. It comes, instead, from scrap metal recovered from the waste. The ash, leaving the boilers on a conveyor belt, passes beneath a big, spinning magnet that sucks metal up from the stream and whisks it onto a mound of salvaged scrap.

Towards the end of my tour, Lefever led me up a ramp, to a point from which I could peer into a large cement box. The magnet, like a giant spool, revolved at the leisurely pace of a paddlewheel. Bed springs, chicken wire, coffee cans and oil pans piled up below, effaced to an identical smoky blue-gray.

We climbed some stairs to the room where the turbine, a dull nest of pipes and dials, sits underneath a high ceiling. It was about as large as a mid-sized Winnebago. I was struck, again, with a sense of disbelief: how could such an extraordinary amount of debt be saddling a facility that was, in physical scope, so comprehensible?

Outside, we pulled out our earplugs and shed our safety jackets and hats. On the perimeter of the facility are a couple of capped landfills. They used to be more of an eyesore (“I think people were calling it ‘Mount Ashmore,’” Lefever said), so they seeded them with temporary grass covers. Now they look like ancient burial mounds—hills too square-shaped to be naturally occurring.

We walked to the active part of the landfill. Between the boilers and the ash heap is a span of city garages and, beside them, a lot that amounts to a graveyard for retired city vehicles. We passed some garbage trucks, still in use, and an outmoded fire truck, long abandoned. At the end of a gravel road, a truck was depositing a load of new ash, water-soaked for cooling purposes, and spreading it out to dry. It will remain there a while, picked at by scavengers. Then haulers will come and take it away, and it will cease to be Harrisburg’s concern. **E**

YOUR NEIGHBOR'S SHOES

The well-heeled, well-connected find out what it's like to struggle.

BY PAUL BARKER



Two Januarys back, when the Pennsylvania legislature voted to declare 2012 the Year of the Bible, they intended to recognize a “national need to study and apply the teachings of the holy scriptures.” They were echoing, almost word for word, a resolution of the 97th Congress enjoining President Reagan to make a similar proclamation for the year 1983.

Like their predecessors, the Pennsylvania legislators were strong on the scriptures’ general applicability, but rather light on specifics. Perhaps they got stuck on the thorn of interpretation. When it came to the problem of poverty, for instance, should the commonwealth adopt Jesus’s apparent resignation in Matthew 26 (“Ye have the poor always with you”)? Or should it follow his directive in Luke 10, in the parable about the Samaritan who opened his purse for a needy traveler (“Go, and do thou likewise”)?

On Nov. 6, the Community Action Commission, an anti-poverty organization serving the tri-county area, hosted an event to raise awareness of the plight of being poor. The event, called a “poverty simulation,” took place in the auditorium of Capital Academy, a special-education school in a converted warehouse across from the N. Cameron Street scrapyard.

In Pennsylvania, about 12 percent of the population lives in poverty. In Dauphin County, nearly 32,000 people are poor; around 12,000 of them, or one in three, are under the age of 17. Community Action Commission, whose main office is on Derry Street, serves a small slice of this population, helping them find jobs or get energy assistance, and providing educational programs on things like good parenting and personal finance.

The simulation was one of the commission’s occasional efforts to reach a different audience: corporations, non-profits, the press and, of course, elected officials. State Rep. Patty Kim and state Sen. Rob Teplitz were there, along with representatives of U.S. Reps. Lou Barletta and Scott Perry and U.S. Sen. Bob Casey.

In the auditorium, a perimeter of folding tables, representing various stores and agencies, surrounded

several dozen chairs that, grouped in clusters, stood for the families’ apartments and houses. The effect, intentional or not, was claustrophobic: an existence bound on all sides by institutions that may or may not offer aid. When I checked in, I was asked whether I wanted to be a child or a decision-maker. I opted for the former and was assigned the role of Franco Fuentes, age 17, living with his mother and sister. The father had abandoned the family.

Before the start of the first week, there was a

lasting 15 minutes, would begin with the blowing of a whistle. If a participant had a job, she had to report to work, represented by an array of chairs in one corner, and sit there a while (seven minutes for a full-time job, four minutes for part-time). Students, likewise, had to park themselves in makeshift classrooms. Any necessary visits—to the grocery store, bank, utility company, social services—had to be made in the remaining time. Whenever a participant went anywhere, she had to fork over a transportation pass. “Transportation is a huge issue,” Ostrander said. “These passes, you’ll come to realize, are far more valuable than any money you’ll make.”

The Fuentes family took stock of its situation. None of us were employed. My sister was in school, but I was a dropout, and our profile said I had gotten a neighbor’s daughter pregnant. We had \$10 cash, two transportation passes and about \$600 in assets, although most of these assets would be hard to give up: one was a refrigerator; another was an oven. Initially, I thought about applying for a job, but, after some discussion, we concluded we were in too much of an emergency. We couldn’t afford food, and we had no way of getting around. We decided to seek assistance.

The whistle blew. My mother shot off for social services, while I headed to the community action agency, in the hopes of scaring up a few transit passes. When I got there, they asked me my name and age, told me I needed to come back with my mother, and took my transportation pass. I walked over to my mother and told her what had happened. She was waiting in a long line. She gave an exasperated laugh.

“All right,” she said. “Go to the pawn shop and try to sell some things.”

I went home. All of our things had been stolen. The facilitator called out, “Eight minutes.”

The pitfall of any simulation of crisis is that its lessons are only as serious as its participants. Ostrander, in his introduction, urged us to approach the exercise with as much gravity as possible. “This is not Milton Bradley,” he said. “For you, this is a game, but for some people, this is real life.”

31,987
PEOPLE IN
DAUPHIN
COUNTY
LIVE IN
POVERTY
— OF WHICH —
11,882
ARE UNDER 17

presentation by Joe Ostrander, the communications director for CAAP, a statewide association that assists the 43 community action agencies across Pennsylvania. He explained that a sister association, based in Missouri, had developed the simulation 15 years ago, using profiles of actual families they served, but fictionalizing the names and addresses. (That explained my house number, which was in “Realville, MO, 99999.”)

Ostrander laid out some ground rules. Each “week,”

You can urge people to be earnest, but can you take the mischief out of a congressional dealmaker, or the perkiness out of a prep-school wonk? As the game progressed, some unappealing traces of hysteria and glee crept into the feverish bustle of the shortened weeks. One week, a man with a fake gun pursued someone, firing and grinning. Another week ended with an announcement: “Did somebody lose this?” The facilitator held up a ridiculous plush animal, which was supposed to symbolize an infant.

Confronted with obvious fiction, the mind begins to search for real-world corollaries. The simulation included a police officer, whom we tried to engage after the looting of our apartment. “Do you have a description of the thief?” he asked kindly. The question seemed to communicate all the hopelessness facing an impoverished victim of crime.

Later, when I went to look for a job, a young desk worker slid an application towards me. It was two-sided, filled with forbidding boxes requesting my educational history, my references, my previous employers—things that Franco Fuentes, like many real people, did not have. I was angry. If they would just hire me, I wanted to say, they would see that I showed up on time and worked hard. But a line of similar stories was piling up behind me. I took the application home.

By the end of the month, our circumstances had improved. My mother—in real life, a math teacher at Capital Academy whose name I never learned—was a force of nature. She managed to wade through the paperwork at social services and come away with vouchers for food and utilities. I got hired as a security guard and earned enough to pay for our rent and an outstanding loan. We even put a few dollars into savings.

The event wrapped up with a group conversation. Participants had taken away different things. “It’s a great simulation,” someone observed, “but it’s not taking into account the emotional stress.”

One woman struck a note of indignation. “People learn how to navigate the system and not only get around it, but make more than I do. And are proud of it.” She mentioned a rumor of a “class in a basement,” where people reportedly learned how to game the aid agencies.

“There’s always fraud, abuse and waste,” Ostrander acknowledged. “My editorial here, though, is that there’s fraud, abuse and waste in every system. Business leaders avoid taxes, for example. Or avoid laws and regulations.”

The problem with a poverty simulation, as Ostrander would doubtless be quick to acknowledge, is that you can’t really simulate poverty. As Tressie McMillan Cottom, a poverty researcher at UC-Davis, wrote in a recent essay, “You have no idea what you would do if you were poor until you are poor.” But the event could still be a testing ground for the suppositions participants brought to the game.

On my first day of work, for example, I found myself next to Rob Teplitz, the freshman state senator from Dauphin County. We’d crossed paths once in the simulation already: he was Mr. Chen, the father of the girl I’d gotten pregnant. (When I tried to visit their home, Teplitz looked up and said,

without skipping a beat, “Haven’t you done enough?”) To occupy our time at work, the organizers had provided questionnaires to examine our beliefs about poverty.

As Teplitz worked his way through the prompts, I peered over his shoulder. He had just answered number seven: “Is moving people out of poverty part of your organization’s goals?”

I had interpreted the prompt as a simple identifier—did you work for an aid agency, or not? But for a legislator, the question, I thought, was more philosophical. Under it, in small blue script, Teplitz had written “yes.” **B**

Community Action Commission is currently accepting donations of toys, coats and raffle items to distribute during its annual client holiday party this year. To donate, or to learn about volunteer opportunities with CAC, please call 717-232-9757 or visit www.cacatricounty.org.



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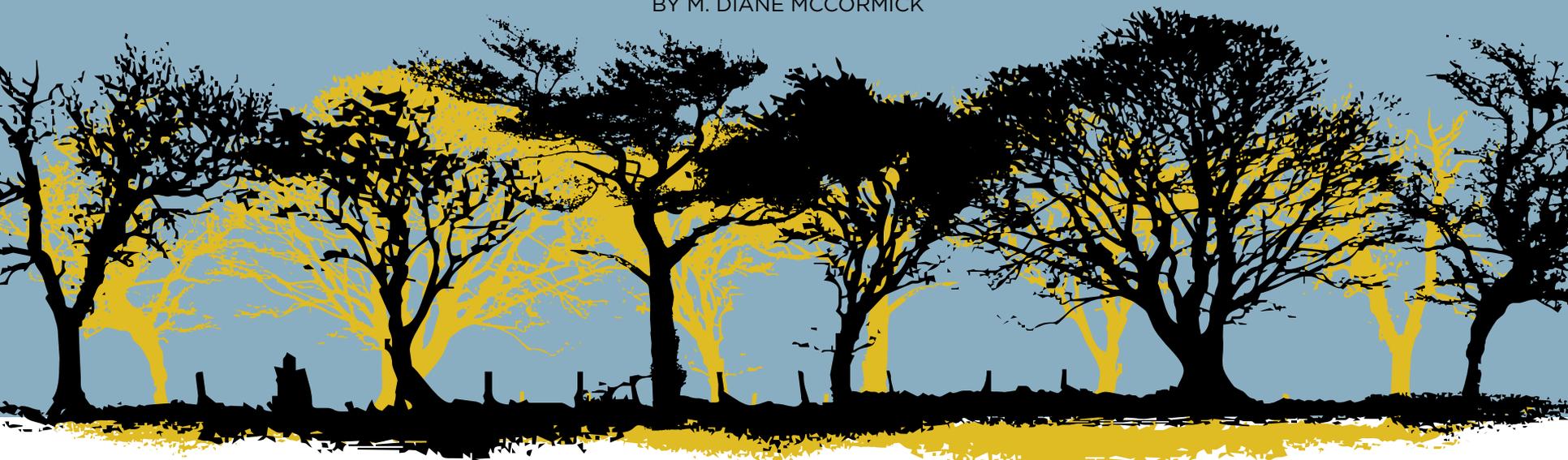
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CANOPY COUNT

Harrisburg gets greener, one tree at a time.

BY M. DIANE MCCORMICK



Chris Fegley approached a young London plane tree living in rare conditions for South Allison Hill's busy Derry Street—broad patch of exposed earth below, open sky with no utility wires above.

"This should be a really happy tree," said Fegley, neighborhood revitalization manager for the Community Action Commission.

The contented tree is among thousands of Harrisburg's "street trees" occupying public rights of way between sidewalks and roads. But this youthful tree also represents an unprecedented partnership of state and local entities, residents and nonprofits that all see trees as the shared answer to their distinctive challenges.

Under the canopy of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (DCNR's) public-private TreeVitalize urban tree restoration program, a number of local entities have combined forces to count, plant and maintain trees in the city of Harrisburg.

Penn State is finalizing results of a citywide street tree inventory, conducted in summer 2013 by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Pennsylvania chapter and funded, in part, by the Harrisburg Authority. DCNR is compiling data for a complete "tree canopy" assessment of every public and private tree seen from a bird's-eye view. The Tri-County Community Action Commission's ongoing work with South Allison Hill residents to plant and maintain trees kicked off with a tree planting in spring 2013 and will soon reach other neighborhoods.

Mature street trees offer measurable benefits in urban areas. Healthy trees boost property values, filter pollutants and reduce heating and cooling costs, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Tree-filled neighborhoods have less domestic violence. Shoppers in tree-lined commercial districts linger longer and spend more. Trees are so thirsty that 100 mature trees catch 77,000 gallons of rainwater a year.

"When you consider all those things they do, the benefits far outweigh the costs, but that's not the general attitude," said Ellen Roane, DCNR's urban forestry program coordinator. "They're viewed as a nicety, not a necessity."

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency enforced municipal storm water management plans meant to prevent dirty city rainwater from coursing into rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, the Harrisburg Authority paid close attention to the city of Philadelphia's "green control plan," said Engineering Director Dave Stewart. Green control bypasses costly engineering projects in favor of tree plantings, rain barrels, green roofs and other natural water-management methods.

A similar approach in Harrisburg could serve the dual purpose of brightening neighborhoods and serving the authority's needs, Stewart said. Big tunnels for capturing storm water "could address water quality issues, but the citizens wouldn't see any benefits," he said. "If we go this green approach, the city can see a lot of benefits."

Urban trees don't have the best reputation—the leaves, the heaving sidewalks, the storm damage—but in South Allison Hill, extensive meetings led by the

Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Community Action Commission won enthusiastic converts who requested tree plantings in front of their properties.

In April 2013, the CAC led residents and volunteers in planting 23 trees along the streets of the city's most diverse, most impoverished neighborhood, with funding help from Covanta Energy. They are London planes, a hybrid of sycamore and American elm. They are honey locust, Japanese tree lilac, red oak and non-fruiting versions of ginkgo and crab apples.

"Urban foresters stress the right tree for the right spot," said Andrew Bliss, CBF's grassroots coordinator. Height matters when utility lines dangle overhead. Sizeable trees need sidewalk openings of 30 square feet to collect adequate water.

Maintenance is so important that Fegley and other CAC staff took eight hours of tree-tending training, mandated for TreeVitalize grant recipients. Young trees, pruned properly, have a better chance of maturing into healthy trees. Regular watering—those green bags wrapped around tree trunks direct water straight to the root system—is crucial in the first two years.

"Getting people invested in helping with that early maintenance helps the trees get off to a good start," said Roane.

The tree inventory cataloging the health and location of Harrisburg's street trees—every single one, counted and assessed by Penn State Extension workers and CBF interns in summer 2013—lays the groundwork for planting and maintenance plans.

CAC will use inventory results to guide tree plantings elsewhere, including one planned for Uptown Harrisburg in spring 2014, said Fegley. The authority will overlay the results, expected before the end of 2013, on its storm water management problem areas to help target their greening efforts, said Stewart.

TreeVitalize has prompted initiatives in 150 to 200 Pennsylvania municipalities, said Roane.

"You have to know what you've got in order to manage," she said. "The first step is to identify what's there. What is the species mix? What are the age and size class? Are they mostly really, really old trees? Are they dying? What you want is a range of age classes and size classes, from young trees to mature trees, so they're not all dying at once."

In Harrisburg, the hope is that the city will someday have resources to contribute toward management—maybe hiring an urban forester, said Stewart.

Last spring's planting could add a total of \$260,000 to South Allison Hill property values, said Fegley. He marched to a spot near 13th and Berryhill streets being targeted for the fall tree planting—a massive stump heaved out of the sidewalk, covered in brush and trash, forcing pedestrians onto the busy road. Grinding stumps and smashing concrete are the most grueling tasks in tree plantings, but Fegley seemed to relish the idea of slaying this dragon and planting a fresh, young tree in its place.

"The community would like very much to walk down the sidewalk," he said. **B**

A CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF MIDTOWN

For 40 years, HHA has showcased the best of Harrisburg.

BY TREVOR PIERCE

This holiday season, some of the city's most iconic properties will open their doors to visitors from across the state as Historic Harrisburg Association celebrates four decades of its best-known event: the HHA Candlelight House Tour.

"This is our 40th anniversary, so it's a pretty big year for us," said HHA Executive Director John Campbell. "The tour has become a holiday tradition for the organization, and it is now one of the largest in central PA."

The self-guided tours provide visitors with a chance to enter classic properties that serve as models of city living.

"The first house tour took place in historic Shipoke in 1973, in conjunction with the founding of the organization," said Campbell. "That was the year after Hurricane Agnes had decimated much of Harrisburg, specifically Shipoke. The event was meant to look at the neighborhood and see what the private homeowners were doing to create urban renewal through a home tour experience."

Following the initial Shipoke event, there was some question as to whether the tours should continue. HHA founding member Ronn Fink, the owner of Harrisburg's Bare Wall Gallery who passed away last year, was instrumental in building the tour's legacy. "The Bare Wall Gallery staged a lot of HHA's early meetings, and Ronn's the one that kept the tour together in its early years," said Campbell.

Fink's determination to continue offering the Candlelight Tour was based on his dedication to the Historic Harrisburg Association's mission of creating sustainable communities. "At its core, the Candlelight Tour is about bringing people into the city. It's about urban renewal, revitalization, historic preservation and city living," said Campbell. "That's what Ronn cared about most, and we were very privileged to have him involved. He was the glue that kept the team together."

With Fink's guidance, the event continued to thrive, bringing more than 40,000 visitors into various Harrisburg neighborhoods. Past tours have highlighted urban renewal efforts in communities including Academy Manor, Allison Hill, Southside and Bellevue Park.

The 2013 tour, titled "Unique Expressions: Opening Doors for 40 Years," will take place in Harrisburg's Midtown neighborhood. "Our offices are in historic Midtown, and we thought that having our anniversary where the heart of our work is would be a great opportunity to showcase what we've done over the past 40 years," said Campbell.

The "Unique Expressions" tour will span 17 properties that incorporate new ideas of urban living and design into historic structures, some of which are over a century old.

"All of the buildings have the consistent theme of revitalization, showcasing how the neighborhood has changed and transformed," explained Campbell. Colonial, Tudor and Federalist style homes will be open to the public, as well as the Governor's Mansion and properties designed by renowned architect Charles Howard Lloyd.

Tour-goers will also have access to an exclusive art opening at Studio 919 on Green Street for the exhibit "Expressions of Art." Curated by Yachiyo Beck, "Expressions of Art" will include pieces by local artists Barbara K. Buer, John Hassler, Sandra G. McKeehan, Joan S. Wolfe and Susan Auchincloss, with a portion of all artwork sold to benefit HHA.

"Visitors will have the opportunity to experience and purchase one-of-a-kind art. Many of the pieces will be displayed for the first time, created by artists who have exhibited around the world," explained Sloan Auchincloss, who co-owns Studio 919 along with his wife Susan.

The gallery is an addition to the Auchincloss' home, which will also be featured on the tour, highlighting recent renovations made to the Federalist property, including the addition of a painting studio and handicapped-accessible bathroom. "We hope that visitors can take some of the creative ideas and apply them to their own homes," said Auchincloss.

The Unique Expressions Candlelight House Tour embodies HHA's vision of what life in Harrisburg can become.

"When the Historic Harrisburg Association was founded, very few of these buildings were occupied," concluded Campbell. "You couldn't even get a mortgage to buy a house in the neighborhood. We want tour-goers to see the revitalization of buildings that were vacant for years and to showcase the transformation that's happened over the past couple of decades." **B**

HHA's 40th Annual Candlelight House Tour will take place Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$15 in advance, \$20 on the day of the tour, with proceeds benefitting the Historic Harrisburg Association. Tickets are available through HistoricHarrisburg.com, which also lists locations where tickets can be purchased in person. For more information, visit HistoricHarrisburg.com or contact the HHA by phone at 717-233-4646.

Top two images: Residence of Sloan & Susan Auchincloss. 919 Green St., Hbg. Art studio and kitchen pictured. Bottom two images: City House Bed & Breakfast. 915 N Front St., Hbg. Living room and dining room pictured.



WIDGETS, NOT WORDS

*Before becoming a government town,
Harrisburg was an industrial powerhouse.*

BY JASON WILSON

The rise of Harrisburg as an industrial city is linked to its rise as a transportation hub in the earliest years of the 19th century.

After the completion of the Camelback Bridge over the Susquehanna in 1820 and the state canal system, smaller forges, furnaces and foundries began locating in the city. The railroad revolution of the 1840s increased the ability to move raw materials, and larger industries began to locate in the city. In 1850, the Porter Furnace, the first anthracite furnace in the city, was built. In 1852, the Harrisburg Cotton Manufacturing Co. began, followed by the Central Iron Works a year later. The Hickok Eagle Works began printing ruled paper in the 1850s, and the Harrisburg Car Co. produced railroad cars.

The Civil War saw Harrisburg's industries producing material, mainly iron, for the war effort, including the Lochiel Rolling Mill, Paxton Rolling Mills (1866) and, in 1867, the Pennsylvania Steel Works, located just south of town. By the 1880s, steel and railroads had grown into massive industries in Harrisburg, but other, smaller industries were still present to meet the demands of a growing population.

Throughout much of the 20th century, the steel and iron industries dominated Harrisburg's landscape, and their owners and financiers contributed to the "City Beautiful" improvements within the city. The Great Depression took its toll on smaller industries, but the steel, railroads and large construction projects helped to lessen the burden somewhat.

In the early 1940s, Harrisburg, like other American cities, had ramped up production for World War II. By 1950, Harrisburg was just shy of 90,000 people—its largest population to date. As the 1950s wore on, both the railroads and steel mills began to decline across America, and many of Harrisburg's factories closed down in the 1960s and '70s.

Though many of the earlier industries are gone, Harrisburg's steel heritage is still evident in the works at Steelton, now ArcelorMittal, and Harsco, which evolved from the Harrisburg Steel Corp. to become a global industrial services company, now based in Camp Hill. **B**

Jason Wilson is an historian for the Capitol Preservation Committee.

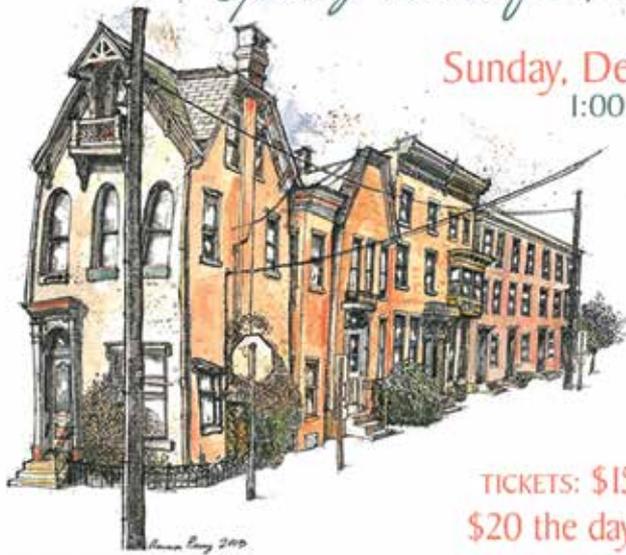


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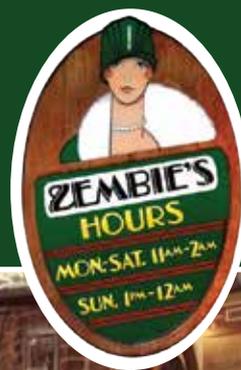


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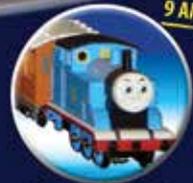
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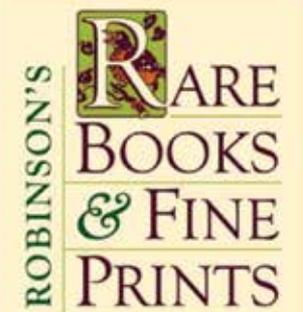
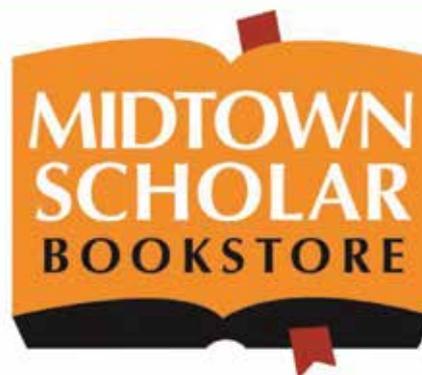


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NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOE BUSINESS

At Plum Bottom, Come for the Footwear, Stay for the Joe Show.

BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER

JOE KNOWS BOOTS—touts the front page of the Plum Bottom flier featuring owner Joe Correale as a child, perched on porch steps, grasping a stick and sporting a sailor’s cap.

An intimidating-looking kid, his stern look seems to say, “I mean business.” If I could make a bet, I’d wager he was referred to as a “handful.” Fast-forward 60-plus years, and you can still see the same complex expression comprised of grit and determination. And yes, he’s still a “handful,” and he still means business.

Plum Bottom, located at the Shoppes at Susquehanna in Harrisburg, features an extensive selection of handbags, shoes and accessories, and owner Correale tells how he managed to succeed all these years while staying abreast of the latest trends.

He bounces back and forth between shoptalk, seriousness, animation, witticisms and the occasional threat. “I can see you’re not into shoes,” he says, warily eyeing my comfy suede boots. Then he cracks, “Too bad we don’t sell jewelry, she’d be an easy mark.”

The minute I started wondering if I should be offended, he heads off in a different direction, eliciting the inevitable laugh. I eventually give up trying to figure out how to feel and just enjoy the “Joe Show” with resigned bemusement as he gives me a summation of his life in the shoe business.

Starting at an early age, Correale helped his father run a shoe department in a large store, stocking shelves, sweeping floors and trimming windows. After graduating high school, he began working in a department store called Orr’s in Bethlehem. “It was huge at the time,” he said. As the years went by, he continued to move up in the shoe world, aided by his knowledge of the industry and his network, including his mentor, Mort Peskin, whom he met through a contact. Peskin owned a shoe store in Cumberland, Md., and Correale paired up with him.

“Peskin opened doors for me, paid my dues to the country club, took me to shoe shows in his private plane. He knew I had a talent for selling and the gift of gab. I’m getting better by the way, so you should come back next week,” he jokes.

Correale worked with Peskin for seven years before agreeing to meet Isaac Mishkin, the owner of The Plum in Harrisburg. “It was another opportunity to move closer to my family,” said Correale, who is from McAdoo and whose in-laws at the time were from Palmyra. The two partnered together, opening a store in Lancaster, but eventually they parted ways to pursue their separate visions.

Correale opened Plum Bottom at the Camp Hill Mall, where he operated the store from 1993 to 2004 before moving to his current digs.

His business savvy and infectious personality have earned him a loyal customer base. Tama from Halifax said, “I have been patronizing Joe’s businesses since 1981, and I have stayed a tried-and-true customer.”

When Correale moved to the Camp Hill Mall, she was disappointed at the driving distance. So, when she heard of the move to the Shoppes at Susquehanna, she was

delighted to have her favorite store back on the East Shore. “You can’t beat the selection,” she said.

Correale said he’s grateful to Linda, a customer from Harrisburg, who wrote to the Shoppes when she discovered there was a vacancy there. “The developers came into my store in Camp Hill and found me,” said Joe, incredulously.

When asked about his famously extensive selection, Joe ticks off an endless list of designers: “We have Pikolino, Van Eli, J.Renee, Beautifeel, Naot, John Joseph... oh my God, I’m getting high now,” he says, pausing for a second before continuing—“don’t forget the handbags. We carry Pietro Allesandro and Due Fratelli, along with scarves, gloves, socks, a men’s section and mimosas on Saturday,” he said.

Everything about Correale is a testament to his love for the business—including his two daughters, whom he named after footwear—Carla Caressa and Nina. “If I had a boy, I’d have named him ‘Boots’ or ‘Rubbers,’” he quips.

Although he admires many styles, loafers aren’t among them. He credits his hard-working staff for his success. Harrisburg resident Andrea Mason, who has worked with Correale since 2005, calls him “a perfectionist with vision and a very good trainer.” He butts in before she finishes her sentence, yelling, “Every location I’ve been at, I’ve always had the best help EVER!”

Mason deftly manages to shoehorn in a quick introduction to a book of “Joe-isms” that the staff created for their boss. The hardcover book is replete with pictures of the shoe-biz star in various “states of Joe,” from reclining to fraternizing with females, interspersed with some of his oft-repeated phrases, including, “I’m a nice guy on Tuesday”; “I have more money than brains”; and “Thank God I’m not dead.”

Correale wanders outside at the end of the interview to sit on a bench and take a minute to reflect as I begin to make my exit, but not before surreptitiously instructing his staff to try to pair me up with more stylish footwear.

“This is my life,” he says, “along with two hairpieces and three wives, or a combination, I forget.” As I make my way to the car, he yells after me, “Hey, when are you getting that article done?”

As his staff says, “You’ll come for the collection and stay for the experience”—and part of that experience is owner Joe Correale. **B**

Pictured left to right: Lauren Trea, Kristan Reed, Lynne Harlacher, Carla Irvin, Joe Correale, Danielle DeFoor, Andrea Mason, & Vicki Denk. Not pictured: Lauren Denk & Megan Jones.

*Plum Bottom | Shoppes at Susquehanna Marketplace
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(717) 651-1600 • www.plumbottom.net*

This year, the New York Times made a bold statement, declaring this the “New Age of Sartorial Enlightenment.” According to the article, the average male is now trading “schlumpiness for style.”

For females, who have always been held to a higher fashion standard, it’s an idea whose time has come. Some contend that people in our geographical area are anything but “early adopters,” but spend a night in downtown Harrisburg, and you will witness many a man stepping out in style, so times may be changing.

For those who are curious about what steps they can take to improve their sartorial quotient, David Wise of Top Shelf Menswear in New Cumberland is well dressed and ready to assist. Wise opened his establishment in the spring of 2012 after recognizing a need in the Harrisburg area for an upscale consignment shop “tailored” specifically to men.

According to Wise, one of his biggest challenges is dispelling the notion that his business in any way resembles the traditional “thrift” shop. All it takes to rid oneself of that pre-conceived prejudice is a trip to his immaculate, well-organized establishment. Wise succeeds in creating a space with an upscale feel similar to men’s stores like Jos. A. Banks, where he was a frequent customer. Managers there were so impressed with his good eye, they succeeded in recruiting him to work part-time, while he also worked as a farrier, specializing in equine hoof care. Wise jokes that it’s fitting since he’s known as a “clothes horse.”

Unlike most consignment shops, Wise’s business maintains a roomy feel. Shirts hang, pressed and pristine in one area, suits in another, and a wide array of colorful, lux ties are carefully folded and easily accessible, each given its own little cubby.

Shoppers can easily view a large expanse of merchandise all at once, then easily hone in on something that catches the eye and survey the article without wrangling with crowded clothing hung on too-close hangers.

In addition to shirts, suits and ties, Wise carries pants, jackets, coats, shoes and accessories like belts, tie tacks and cufflinks, along with new portfolios and even wallets.

Designer brands like Versace, Armani, Hugo Boss, Burberry and Gucci can be found for a fraction of the price customers would pay if purchased new. “Typically, you’ll save about 70 percent off retail,” said Wise.

Wise uses his customer service skills and keen eye for aesthetics to pair colors and patterns that work together to aid shoppers in looking their best. He even offers beer (hear that guys?) and wine to those who prefer to sip and shop at a leisurely pace.

Customer Carol Page Livingston of Mechanicsburg gives Top Shelf Menswear high marks. “Dave really knows style and is always eager to help a lost soul find his way through the daunting task of clothes shopping. This is our favorite place when it comes to purchasing clothing for my husband,” she said.

Marlin Yohn of Dillsburg also enjoys shopping at Top Shelf. “He carries an unbelievable selection so you can find what you are looking for at reasonable prices you can afford. The clothing is top quality, and their great tailor will make you look your best. Service, too, is top shelf service so you keep coming back.”

Wise also caters to larger customers with a “Big and Tall Room” located in the rear of the store where sizes range from 38 to 58.

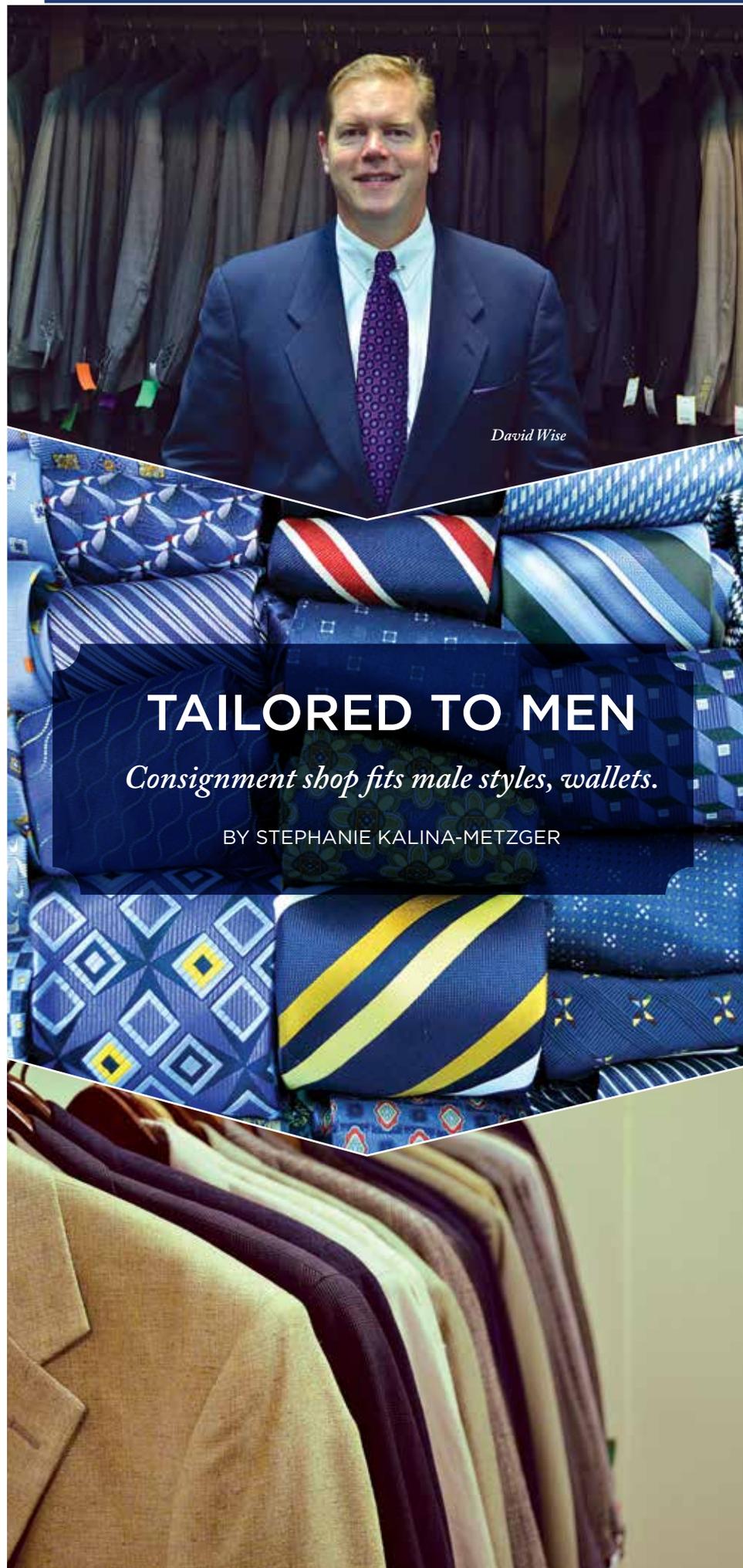
Younger folks might want to check out the store as well. For college students seeking jobs, Wise offers assistance in their attempt to dress to impress, along with a 20 percent discount. Active military are encouraged to take advantage of a 20 percent discount, too. “I offer the discount as kind of a thank you,” he said.

Wise is also active on social media, offering discounts on “Twitter Tuesdays” and “Facebook Fridays,” so be sure to “follow” and “like” Top Shelf Menswear to keep abreast of the latest tips on acquiring high-end fashion at a major discount.

“You’d be surprised how differently you are treated when wearing a jacket,” said Wise. **E**

Top Shelf Menswear is located at 300 Bridge St., New Cumberland. More information is at www.topshelfmenswear.com

Photography by Daniel Smyth





A SWEET TRADITION

At Matangos Candies, one family has served up handmade delights for 67 years.

BY MISSY SMITH

On a recent fall trip into Harrisburg, Lewisburg resident Robert Powell stopped in to Matangos Candies to pick up some sweets for his 92-year-old mother. Shop owner Peter Matangos greeted him by name, asked him how his health was and shared a few laughs with his long-time customer.

“Whenever I come to Harrisburg, I stop in here,” says Powell.

What keeps bringing him back? The family-style rapport he has built with the sweet shop and the handcrafted dark chocolates for which his mother says there is no acceptable comparison.

“They keep mama satisfied with candy,” says Powell, who explains that his mother loves that Matangos uses all-natural ingredients. As Peter packaged an assorted box of dark chocolates, he said, “We hook mama up.”

This is business as usual at the 67-year-old candy shop, where Peter, his mother and previous generations have built a strong sense of community

and share the joy that homemade candy brings to the taste buds and the soul.

Their sweet history begins with Peter’s Greek grandfather Christoforos “Pop” Matangos, who, in 1941, immigrated to New York from Turkey, where he had learned his delicious craft and created his signature Venetian Mints that are to this day one of Matangos’ best sellers. After serving many years in the Merchant Marines, he moved to Allentown to start a candy shop and soda fountain, which only survived a brief time during the Great Depression. His failed business forced him to move to Scranton, where he worked for Davis Candy, and later to Harrisburg, laboring in the candy kitchen of the long-gone, legendary Pomeroy’s department store.

In 1947, Christoforos opened Matangos Candies out of his home at S. 15th and Catherine streets in the Allison Hill neighborhood of the city. During the late 1950s through the early 1970s, his family helped develop

his business into a thriving enterprise, which quickly became a local favorite.

When Christoforos died in 1977 at the age of 84, Peter, his parents and siblings picked up where he left off. Today, Peter is nearly a one-man show, making the candy, running and cleaning the shop, handling marketing and advertising, keeping financial records, answering the phone and greeting customers with his infectious smile and endearing “Hey! How ya’ doin’?”

Helen, Peter’s 81-year-old mother, with whom he lives in Susquehanna Township, also works at Matangos, most often doing the chocolate dipping.

For the 53-year-old candy maker, the magic happens downstairs in the kitchen, where his grandfather dreamt up his homemade recipes for many years, passed down his techniques and recipes, and told Peter, “Don’t change anything I’ve done, and you’ll be in business for years.” With strong admiration for his grandfather, Peter listened and has helped to round out the family tradition, staying true to “Pop” and their long-time customers.

BACK IN TIME

Walking into Matangos is like taking a trip back in time. With obvious admiration and respect for his grandfather, Peter hasn’t changed a thing. Matangos still offers Christoforos’ signature Venetian mints and ivory (or white) dipped chocolates, something that he was the first in the country to make. The candy shop boasts a wide variety of treats using its patriarch’s exact recipes, which include Wilbur Chocolate (Christoforos’ favorite) and do not contain artificial ingredients. Only the fruit creams contain food coloring to differentiate between the flavors.

“There is no junk in our candy. A 3-year-old could read our ingredients,” Peter quips, and explains that he has had numerous salesmen come to the shop trying to sell him Vanillin (imitation vanilla), which he has always refused.

Peter has even kept his grandfather’s old candy cases, which house Christoforos’ antique stenciled candy signs, and he continues to use all of his grandfather’s chocolate-making equipment, which he swears by. “I have never replaced any equipment,” he says.

This is the magic of Matangos. Peter and Helen have kept family traditions alive, housing antique artifacts at their shop; providing hometown, family-oriented customer service; insisting on using the best ingredients; and only serving the freshest, tastiest candies. While many chains offer cheaper treats at nearly every grocery store in driving distance, Peter says that Matangos boasts freshly made chocolates, which, at any given point in time, have sat in

his vintage candy cases for no more than four to six weeks. When you buy a box of chocolate at a large retail store, there is no telling just how old the candy is.

SPECIAL VISIT

Upon entering Matangos, the aroma of chocolate welcomes you for a special visit, and then, slipping a luscious chocolate into your mouth, you realize why this shop is a well-loved gem in the city. Velvety chocolate caramels melt in your mouth, without the unpleasant side effect of getting the confection stuck in your teeth.

The Figaro, a delightful, three-layered hazelnut chocolate candy, adds a rich, unique flair to Matangos’ offerings. Chocolate-covered toffees offer a quick trip to heaven, with a bold, yet

**“THIS IS THE
MAGIC OF
MATANGOS.
PETER AND
HELEN HAVE
KEPT FAMILY
TRADITIONS
ALIVE.”**

smooth, buttery flavor. And, the Venetian mints—which come in milk, dark and ivory chocolate assortments—elicit audible signs of enjoyment and a nostalgic appreciation for the thoughtfully crafted candy, concocted many years ago. These are a few of the treats that keep customers coming back for more and that influence Peter’s cheerful disposition, loving gratitude and respect for his grandfather’s craft—one that has become his own.

With the holiday season underway, Peter says he will sometimes work 12 to 14-hour days, but the love of candy making keeps him going, without feeling the exhaustion that long workdays can create.

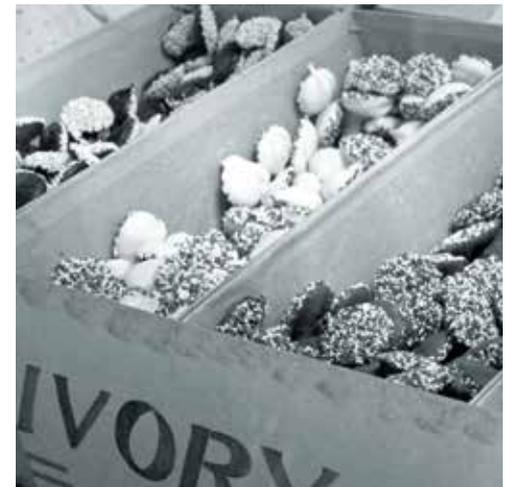
Each year, one of Matangos’ busiest holiday seasons is Christmas—during which time Peter and Helen crank out seasonal favorites like chocolate Santas, classic barley sugar toy lollipops, chocolate straws and red and green Jordan almonds. Easter also proves to be an

industrious holiday, when Matangos fulfills orders for chocolate peanut butter eggs and chocolate bunnies, among other favorites. Valentine’s is another big day for the candy shop, which produces close to 500 pounds of chocolate-covered strawberries leading up to the sweet holiday. Matangos offers candy for same-day purchase out of the candy cases, as well as through special orders, in which Peter says he “chocolate-covers anything.”

Handcrafting candy for 35 years, Peter can’t imagine doing anything else. When his grandfather taught him how to make candy during his childhood, he was captivated.

“I knew when I was about 14 that this is what I wanted to do,” he says. “I love it; I can’t help it. I don’t dread coming to work every day. I have never had an angry person in here. I have the sweetest job in Harrisburg.” **B**

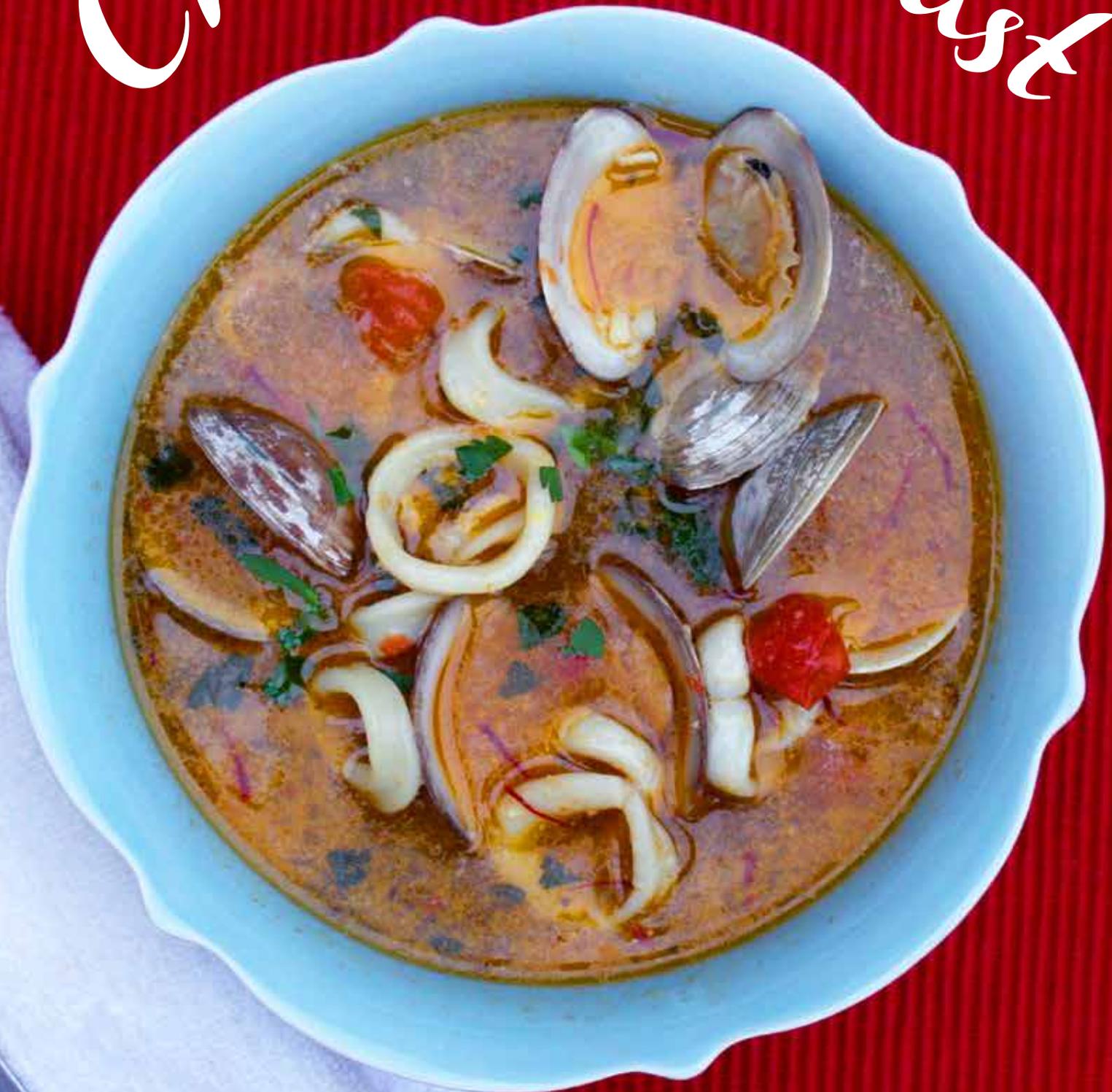
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THE FISH OF
Christmas Past



ZUPPA DI PESCE

In a large saucepan or Dutch oven, sauté 2 chopped garlic cloves and ¼-teaspoon red pepper flakes in 1/3-cup olive oil over medium heat for about 2 minutes. When the garlic is golden, remove and discard (the goal is to gently flavor the oil).

Add 2 pounds of cleaned calamari, cut into rings, and cook until opaque. You can use frozen calamari if fresh aren't available.

Add 1 cup white wine and simmer for 1 minute.

Peel and chop 2 fresh tomatoes and add to the pot, along with 2 tablespoons chopped Italian parsley and a pinch of salt. Cook until the tomato juices have evaporated. (If you can't find good tomatoes, use chopped canned Italian tomatoes that have been drained.)

Add 2 cups water and a pound of small hard-shell clams that have been scrubbed. Also add 1½ pounds of firm, fresh white fish cut into chunks. Use what you like. Halibut, sea bass, haddock and monkfish will work. The key is firm fish.

Bring the stew to a simmer and cook for about 5 minutes or until the clams open and the fish turns opaque. Discard any clam that fails to open. Add additional salt and pepper if needed.

Place a toasted slice of crusty Italian bread, which has been rubbed with a sliced garlic clove, into each serving bowl and ladle the soup over.

The seafood stew would be delicious paired with arugula salad, simply dressed, and maybe some more bread for dunking into the juices. For dessert, try some sweet anise or pignoli (pine nut) cookies and a glass of amaretto.

When I was growing up, Christmas Eve was a relatively quiet day at our house. There were last minute errands to be done, like going to Shell's on Market Street in Harrisburg for fresh greens (very little decorating was done in November in those days!), watching "A Christmas Carol" on TV (the original one, I think), visiting our family doctor with a gift of fresh oranges and waiting for midnight Mass.

But one thing was a tradition with my father: dinner had to be fried smelts. This was his link to the Feast of the Seven Fishes, a Christmas Eve dinner tradition that he had enjoyed as a child in Italy. There are many explanations for the symbolism of seven fishes. Some say seven represents the last seven days of Advent or the seven Sacraments. Others believe it was seven fishes to ward off the evil of the seven deadly sins. At any rate, Italians ate seafood on Christmas Eve because, in the Roman Catholic Church, eating meat was not allowed on the Vigil of the Birth of Christ (La Vigilia).

My father spoke of the many delicacies his mother made: octopus, eel, calamari, clams, salt cod or baccalà, mussels and his favorite, fried smelts. No doubt, these were all plentiful in his little village on the Adriatic Sea.

Smelts are small, silvery fish that resemble anchovies or sardines. My mother hated preparing them but did so with great love for "Pop" every Christmas Eve

(we had the "Feast of One Fish"). They bought fresh smelts at the market and, in those days, these little creatures had to be cleaned. That meant removing the head, scales, fins, as well as the "insides," a rather unsavory task. The smelts were then coated with flour, salt and pepper and fried in a deep skillet until crisp and brown. A little splash of fresh lemon juice, and my father relished every bite, bones and all.

This month—assuming you'd rather not prepare smelts—I offer a simple, one-pot stew that is wonderful for those who wish to have their own fish feast on Christmas Eve. It is made from seafood easily obtained at the West Shore Farmers Market or a good specialty supermarket such as Wegman's. It can be kept warm on the stove waiting for your return from Christmas Eve services or visits with family and friends. The recipe is from "Savoring Italy," a collection of recipes from Williams and Sonoma, but one that likely comes very close to a dish that my grandmother, Victoria Ruggieri, might have made.

So, there will be no smelts for us on Christmas Eve, although I do think fondly of my father when I see them in the fish case at the market. But Zuppa di Pesce was one of his favorite dishes, and he would approve.

Buon Natale to all TheBurg readers. May your Christmas be filled with family, friends and, of course, good food. **B**

SEASONAL SIP

Make sure to select the right wine for your holiday meal.

BY STEVE JULIANA

At this time of year, we prepare for our most festive gatherings with family and friends. Wine is a natural part of any holiday meal, but what do we match with our celebratory fare? Fortunately, we are living in an age when more good wine is being made than at any time in human history. The variety is amazing, and it's easy to find a good quaff for any holiday get-together.

Turkey is a tradition in many households—and why not? What's not to like about such a wonderful bird? For my dinner, two wines come to the fore: Pinot Noir for a red and Chenin Blanc for a white.

The amazing thing about turkey is that it is probably the most wine-friendly dish that you can serve. Pinot matches the bird with a fruity lightness and a long finish that also goes well with various other festive dishes. It is easy to find a good one, most notably from California and Oregon. Now that the "Sideways" fad has passed, quality is up and so is availability.

Chenin Blanc is the great fruity grape from the Loire valley in France, where it is known as Vouvray. It matches the noble bird with a light sweetness and good acidity. It will also stand up to side dishes but goes hand-in-hand with most desserts. This great grape is also very popular in South Africa, where it is known as "steen." It's not quite as rich as the French bottling, but still good.

Another popular centerpiece for a holiday meal is ham. The Germanic grapes

match well with the sweet and salty flavors of this holiday favorite. Riesling and Gewurztraminer are from Germany, while Gruner Veltliner is the major white grape from Austria. These three are from the center of white wine production in central Europe. The great thing is that they have crossed borders and are now easy to find from many other parts of the world.

Riesling is low in alcohol while big in flavor and freshness. Light and easy drinking, it's a perfect match for holiday dinners. Gewurztraminer is a spicy wine filled with pungent flavors and aromas. This seems to be a match made in heaven for pork and sweet potatoes. Gruner Veltliner is a minerally wine with more subtle flavors than its German cousins that works as more of a palate scrubber, making your next bite as good as your first.

The traditional Italian holiday meal is the Feast of Seven Fishes, a huge meal of seven courses without butter or meat that ends at midnight. Vermentino is the go-to wine for this fare. A white wine from the island of Sardinia, it has a reputation for being the finest available. My personal favorite for this meal is Greco di Tufo, the rich, ancient white from the Campania region. It has a unique flavor and a mouth-filling texture unlike any other wine. Readily available, try this wine if you can this holiday season.

Keep sipping, Steve. **B**

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Oregon Pinot Noir | Code 46640
Cooper Mountain Vineyards Pinot Noir Reserve 2011

This biodynamic wine comes from a French expatriate making wine in the Willamette Valley. Its terroir driven nose gives way to gorgeous raspberry and cherry flavors while showing superb balance.

*-Fine Wine & Good Spirits
Luxury Buyer Michael DeMartinis*

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Vermentino | Code 43239
Argiolas Vermentino di Sardegna Costamolino 2012

Lemon-green color, with mineral and citrus aromas. Fresh and crisp, the minerality and nice acidity on the palate make this a great food wine or an easy sipper.

*-Fine Wine & Good Spirits
Luxury Buyer Stephen Reso*

Price: \$13.99



Vouvray | Code 46909
Domaine Pichot Le Peu de la Moriette Vouvray 2012

Offers a mix of pear and green fig notes, showing tangy green apple notes and a flicker of lovage. The open finish features well-embedded acidity and a very fresh feel. Drink now through 2015.

-88 Points, Wine Spectator

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Learn more about these selections at: www.FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com

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CITY

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CLASSROOM

HARRISBURG IS MORE THAN JUST A PLACE WHERE SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED; IT'S A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ITSELF.

BY KERRY ROYER

A wide river. A rich history. Smooth government buildings balanced by planned green spaces. Meandering streets that twist and turn through Uptown, Midtown and downtown. Architecture with charisma. Harrisburg is a city worth exploring. City schools take advantage of its attributes all year long.

"We use the entire city as an extended campus," affirmed David Rushinski, principal of Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School. He said that parents who enroll their children in the city campus note the phenomenal benefits of being next door to cultural, scientific and performance venues.

A valuable asset of Harrisburg is that it is such a walkable city.

"It's simplified to schedule field trips almost every week to locations right around the corner such as the Whitaker Center, the planetarium or Strawberry Square to see the Popcorn Hat Players," he said. "Plus, all of our students receive a year-long membership to the State Museum."

St. Stephen's Episcopal School on Front Street uses its picturesque spot in the city as a resource for several aspects of learning, from simple to more complex. Fall mornings are spent playing in Riverfront Park during recess.

"We don't have a huge campus, so we are especially vigilant in how we use the space and the community around us," said Ellen Konkle, development and alumni coordinator for the school.

The students enjoy walking to the Dauphin County Library, where they sign up for library cards and spend afternoons at the YMCA for swimming and gym class. "The takeaway is that it makes our students grateful for being an integral part of a community," she said. "They learn civic responsibility by appreciating city parks, knowing that they are invested in making public space a nice place to enjoy."

This is the next generation of city leaders, according to Konkle, and the valuable insight they gain from everyday experiences in a cultural city boosts all levels of learning. "Also, the use of city resources in our curriculum is one of the most unique factors about St. Stephen's and one that many alumni recount as a reason they think so fondly of their days with us."

Caleb Smith, film and video teacher at Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School (CASA) said that, in his curriculum, students work on a variety of video projects, including narratives and music videos.

“Location makes a strong impression when used correctly, and, rather than having all the scenarios take place in locker-lined hallways, we use the city as our classroom with a large variety of close places,” he said.

For example, students have used Riverfront Park and the Walnut Street Bridge for recognizable and nature-oriented locations, he said. The Capitol steps down to 2nd Street provide an older look for shoots, while the modern buildings around Strawberry Square evoke yet another mood.

“The city is our classroom and also the location and background to almost all of our productions,” he said.

BOOKS & BRIDGES

If writing is a student’s passion, there’s no need to venture far to find the perfect place for inspiration.

“Creative writing typically takes a ‘field trip’ to the Midtown Scholar Bookstore, where the writers get to explore the plethora of books,” said CASA creative writing teacher Ann Stewart. “When we enter, someone invariably notes, with a near-swoon, the aroma of musty books, pungent coffee and polished wood. To a writer, that’s heaven.”

The river along Front Street is a strong source of inspiration as well, remarked CASA dance teacher Rosemary Battista. Dance students visit the river every year to observe nature—not only the power of the water but also the peace and tranquility that it provides.

In addition, students often comment on the bridges and relate their lines and form to the shapes they make when they dance. Often, the students create strong, emotional choreography from the contrast of the city noises and the quiet beauty of nature, she said.

Jackie Kosoff of Hershey graduated from CASA last year and is now majoring in dance at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She attests that the exercise by the Susquehanna provided an energetic muse.

“It opened my mind to a new way of thinking and finding a source for inspiration,” she said. “We take that experience and remember not to limit ourselves. It is a lesson that I carry with me now and will use in my studies. And it started as a quiet time taking notes on the energy of Harrisburg.”

The river is also used for scientific lessons to educate students on the history of floods in the region. Harrisburg School District pupils studied the high water mark from Agnes and tied the experience to a unit on weather, climate and watersheds, learning the causes of floods and how to be prepared.

In fact, nature provides many opportunities for students to get out and about in the city.

CASA students spent a day identifying native Pennsylvania trees on the Capitol lawn using keys provided by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Meanwhile, Camp Curtin School students celebrated the 25th anniversary of Arbor Day last spring with the Harrisburg Department of Parks, Recreation & Enrichment

at the Italian Lake band shell. They were able to assist and learn more about the important effect trees have in our communities and how urban and community parks provide value.

Speaking of nature, Harrisburg’s Math Science Academy partners with Harrisburg Inner City Outings, a local nonprofit, to provide life-changing experiences for Harrisburg youth.

“Over the last seven years, we have completed more than 70 outings with 300 or more Math Science Academy students participating in the program,” said teacher Judd Pittman.

He said that Harrisburg students have hiked to Hawk Rock and Pole Steeple and paddled the Susquehanna and Juniata Rivers.

Students also participated in The Sierra Club-sponsored Susquehanna River Clean Up and Friends of Midtown’s annual fall clean up.

“The students have gained a deeper appreciation regarding their impact on and relationship with the natural world,” said Pittman. “The experiences students have on Saturdays are often expressed through blogs and student-generated write-ups in the school newsletter, bringing full circle the connection between school and the opportunities afforded our students through Harrisburg Inner City Outings.”

LESSONS FROM THE PAST, PRESENT

The Harrisburg Cemetery sits in somber contrast to the spirited stories of former city residents buried there. Here is where local historian George Nagle brings tales of mid-1800s Harrisburg abolitionists to life for local high school students. A member of the Camp Curtin Historical Society, Nagle leads a field trip each fall to teach about people who were critical national figures in the anti-slavery argument raging during the pre-Civil War era.

Harrisburg Academy senior Hannah Shea of Susquehanna Township attended the cemetery field trip to one of the city’s best-kept historical secrets. “It really put the stories of past national debate in context for me,” she said. “People from Harrisburg influenced the anti-slavery movement and participated in the Underground Railroad. I gained a deepened understanding from learning in such a meaningful atmosphere.”

Harrisburg Academy’s original location was the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion. “Our entire school community still returns to the city for our holiday concert at the Forum featuring student performers and for our commencement ceremonies at the Scottish Rite Cathedral,” said Kristina Pae, director of communications for the school.

Academy students of all ages participate in field trips in the city, including performances at the Gamut Theatre and the Scottish Rite Theatre, attendance at the Farm Show, tours of the state Capitol and visits to the Rachel Carson Building for presentations about the peregrine falcon banding. They go on walking tours of historic Uptown Harrisburg, visit the National Civil War



Museum, explore the Susquehanna River, attend the Capital Area Science & Engineering Fair at Whitaker Center and watch educational films at Midtown Cinema.

In addition, each graduating senior concludes his or her final year with a three-week internship at a local business or organization.

“The resources of the city are readily available, and companies are willing to reach out in partnership to the school,” said Pae.

In 2012 alone, students interned at the State Street Academy of Music, Harrisburg Law Bureau, Pennsylvania State Museum, state Bureau of Forestry, Kutztown University Small Business Development Center, Equality PA and the East Shore YMCA, she said.

Other resources in the city offer a social and community service aspect to learning for all students.

For instance, the Harrisburg School District partners with local organizations to provide weekend food for needy families through the Power Pack program, sponsored by PinnacleHealth and the Central PA Food Bank. The life skills classroom at Camp Curtin bags the food, which is then picked up by the district courier, who delivers it to the schools.

“A bag full of non-perishable food goes home every Friday at the end of the school day to families who need extra help with food because sometimes some of our students do not eat on the weekends and come to school on Mondays starving,”

said Laura Bloss, Harrisburg School District’s homelessness liaison. “This relates to curriculum in many ways. When our students have food and healthy nutrition, they are able to focus better in school. Also, our Life Skills students do the packing of the food, so they are getting skills for work like they would at a grocery store by keeping inventory and keeping track of the bags that are filled.”

Harrisburg schools also work with The Highmark Caring Place, which champions the cause of grieving children by creating awareness of their needs, providing programs for them and their families, and empowering the community to effectively support them.

“The Harrisburg High School SciTech campus has been sending a group to Highmark for several years, and it is one of our most popular partners for the students,” said SciTech Community Partnership Development Director Doug Reitz. “SciTech students help with the children’s grief center where young children are provided counseling to help them cope with the loss of a loved one. We send a group each month of the school year for community service work.”

Opportunity for learning abounds throughout the city, and every destination seems to be right around the corner.

“A hands-on experience of learning always trumps traditional classroom work,” said Harrisburg Catholic’s Rushinski. “We are fortunate to have a wide array of opportunities this city offers us.” **B**

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OFF THE CHAIN

Harrisburg leads state in banning dog tethering.

BY AMY WORDEN

Harrisburg may not be on the leading edge of too many trends, but it can be proud of this: It is the first city in Pennsylvania to ban round-the-clock dog chaining.

In other words, dog owners can be cited—and lose their pets—if they tether them for extended period of time.

The goal of the ordinance, signed by Mayor Linda Thompson in May, is to alleviate the suffering of animals and boost the quality of life in the community.

“I wanted to have the strongest possible law,” said the bill’s author, City Councilman Brad Koplinski. “It’s another tool to prevent people from not taking care of their dog in extreme ways.”

Life isn’t pretty at the end of a chain. The abuse is no different than beating or starving an animal. It subjects dogs to extreme temperatures, rain and snow and eliminates socialization critical to their psychological health.

Chained dogs are far less likely to get veterinary care and far more likely to attack a passerby who innocently crosses their turf.

Not to mention that shackling a dog to a stake or porch rail can be—and has proved—fatal.

That doesn’t mean residents can’t put dogs on an appropriate tether for a potty break. Under the language, a dog may be tethered for the time it takes to “perform a task.”

“It gives animal control officers a lot of leeway,” said Koplinski. “This isn’t an effort to go after every instance of someone leaving their dog out for an hour, but to go after owners for whom leaving a dog outside is a form of neglect.”

The bill also restricts tethering during periods of inclement weather, including extreme heat (over 90 degrees) and cold (below 32 degrees) and forbids the use of choke collars and thick chains—which

are not only cruel, but often the sign of dog-fighting operations, say animal welfare advocates.

In approving the ordinance, Harrisburg did what state lawmakers have failed to do and only a handful of municipalities (in York County) have done in less restrictive ways. Hazleton also bans dog chaining but allows an 8-hour window.

Animal lovers who have lobbied without success for a state law to ban dog chaining rejoiced at the news.

“Tethering is a huge problem,” said Zella Anderson, president of the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance, whose volunteers often respond to calls of animals in distress.

Anderson said the ordinance gives law enforcement a tool to remove dogs from an inhumane situation before it becomes life-threatening. Tragically, between the time the council heard testimony on the bill and its final passage, a dog tied to a porch was found hanged.

Sarah Speed, state director for the Humane Society of the United States, says multiple chained dogs are often an indication of a dog-fighting ring, and such an ordinance gives humane law enforcement officers a right to enter the property.

Harrisburg animal control officer Fred Lamke said he has issued one citation since the ordinance took effect, a charge that carries a \$350 fine and the possibility of losing your dog.

But he said he also is handing out copies of the ordinance in neighborhoods so residents understand the rules about proper dog-keeping. So far, Lamke said, he hasn’t had to return to houses where he has warned the owners about the new ordinance.

Already, Harrisburg is a model for other municipalities weighing similar laws. Doylestown and Erie are considering following suit.

Supporters hope state lawmakers are watching.

Koplinski—who is running for lieutenant governor on a pro-dog platform (among other issues)—and Anderson say a decade of work in the Capitol has so far been for naught.

“Perhaps we can put pressure on the statehouse,” he said. There are bills banning around-the-clock tethering in both the House (HB 41) and Senate (SB 522), but neither has advanced beyond committee.

More than 100 communities in 30 different states have passed laws to regulate the tethering of animals.

Anderson said unchaining dogs benefits the dog and the community. People can rest easy without barking dogs and the potential health risks from unvaccinated animals that may be prone to biting. And, of course, the dog is healthier and happier.

Anderson said the Harrisburg law will help prevent more cases like Peanut, the senior pit bull that spent more than a decade on a chain. Volunteers knew about Peanut’s plight for years, but his owner skirted cruelty charges by complying with the bare minimum required under the law: a crude shelter and access to food and water.

“He was one of many tragic stories, chained outside living a life of hell,” said Anderson. “The laws in Pennsylvania are extremely lax.”

It wasn’t until Peanut developed multiple tumors—a clear indication it had not received veterinary care—that volunteers were able to get him removed from the house.

Unlike the tales of many chained dogs, Peanut’s story has a happy ending.

Thanks to fund-raising by CPAA, he got the surgery he needed and is now enjoying life—and a comfy spot on the sofa—with the family that opened their hearts and home to him. **B**





THE WRIGHT STUFF

A BUS TRIP TO FALLINGWATER MAY BE THE PERFECT BREAK FROM YOUR ROUTINE.

BY DON HELIN

Day trips come in several varieties. Some are simple, short jaunts over to the next county; others require more planning and a lengthier drive. Still longer trips are possible, but usually go best if the driving is left to the professionals.

That last type describes a day trip I took over the summer to Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob, two of famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright's

masterpieces in southwestern Pennsylvania. Personally, I'd rather not be stuck behind the wheel for six hours, which puts a damper on the entire experience for me. So, a bus trip sponsored by the arts group, Plein Air Camp Hill, seemed like the perfect way to ride.

GETTING STARTED

Even if you're not doing the driving yourself, a day trip to Fallingwater

does require one sacrifice—you have to get up very early. I boarded the bus about 7:30 a.m., my energy boosted by the large cinnamon chip muffin, bottle of water and juicy red apple that I was handed immediately.

Barbara McGeary, a board member with Plein Air Camp Hill, served as our guide for the trip. I asked her about our sponsors. "We coordinate the Plein Air Festival in Camp Hill each year," she said. "Also, we're the same

group restoring the former Schaeffer School [in Camp Hill] and turning it into an arts and learning center. It's been a busy time for all of us."

Our bus trip was technically to the former homes of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Kaufmann (Fallingwater) and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hagan (Kentuck Knob). Though they are now tourist destinations, Wright originally built the houses on commission from these two prominent Pennsylvania families

to serve as their private residences. They are near one another, about a three-hour drive from Harrisburg.

FRANK LLOYD WHO?

Wisconsin-born Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959) was an American architect, interior designer, writer and educator, who designed more than 1,000 structures. He began his professional training as a civil engineer at the University of Wisconsin, but quickly turned to architecture under the tutelage of Louis Sullivan of Chicago.

Our guide at Fallingwater shared with us that Wright had a long but tumultuous life. He had three marriages and seven children, at one point abandoning his family and fleeing to Europe with the wife of one of his clients. The scandal that erupted temporarily destroyed Wright's reputation as an architect in the United States. Even upon his return, tragedy followed as, in 1914, a male servant murdered his mistress and six other people before setting fire to Taliesin, the home Wright had built for her in Wisconsin.

Through all of this hardship and heartbreak, Wright continued to design buildings. During the last years of his life, Wright designed the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City, probably his most recognized masterpiece. Its unique central geometry allows visitors to experience the Guggenheim collection by taking an elevator to the top level, then view the artwork by walking down the slowly descending, central spiral ramp.

Wright also designed many of the interior elements of his buildings, such as the furniture and stained glass. He authored 20 books, many articles, and was a popular lecturer in the United States and Europe. In 1991,

the American Institute of Architects recognized Wright as the greatest American architect of all time.

FIRST STOP: FALLINGWATER

Fallingwater is one of Wright's most famous and acclaimed works. Edgar Kaufmann, a successful businessman from Pittsburgh, bought 500 acres near Bear Creek Run in the Laurel Highlands and commissioned Wright to build a home near the waterfalls on the property.

Wright believed in designing structures in harmony with their environment. He called this philosophy "organic architecture," and we saw it in the design of Fallingwater. Wright wanted the new residents to live with the waterfalls, to make them part of their everyday lives. He didn't want the Kaufmanns to just look at the falls every now and again.

Constructed over a 30-foot waterfall, the house may look big on the outside, but, inside, it actually is quite small. This surprised me because I nearly banged my head as I entered the front door and had to duck as I walked throughout the house.

There are three bedrooms and a large combination living room and dining room. Designers of the time included many walled-off rooms, which Wright believed put the residents in a box. Wright's philosophy was to eliminate visual barriers, which he did at Fallingwater, enabling the family's life to be integrated with the out-of-doors.

Juniata County native Jean Tuzinski remembers visiting Fallingwater years ago. "After we finished our tour," she said, "we had so much fun wading in the water downstream from the falls." Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to experience that on this trip.

The construction of Fallingwater was developed through a series of

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:

FALLINGWATER—FALLINGWATER.ORG
KENTUCK KNOB—KENTUCKKNOB.COM
PLEIN AIR CAMP HILL—PLEINAIRCAMPHILL.ORG

cantilevered balconies and terraces. Constructed of sandstone taken from the property and built by local craftsmen, the house was begun in 1935 and completed in 1939, when a guesthouse and service wing were added. It was the Kaufmanns' weekend retreat until 1953. The house cost \$155,000, making it one of Wright's most expensive homes.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has preserved Fallingwater since 1963, with a major structural repair in 2002, strengthening the cantilevers to repair and prevent structural deflection. This wonderful gift from the Kaufmanns is truly a treasure for future generations.

NEXT UP: KENTUCK KNOB

After touring Fallingwater, we stopped for lunch at the Mill Run Grille in Mill Run, Pa. I thoroughly enjoyed my steak salad, complete with homemade rolls, then topped off lunch with a fresh slice of homemade cherry pie and a scoop of ice cream on the top. Feeling refueled, it was off to our second stop on the daylong Wright tour—Kentuck Knob.

The name Kentuck Knob is credited to the late 18th-century settler David Askins, who planned to move from Pennsylvania to Kentucky. When he settled in western Pennsylvania, he decided to name his property Little Kentuck. Ever since then, the property has been known as Kentuck Knob.

In 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Hagan purchased 80 acres of mountain land near Fallingwater. Friends of the Kaufmanns, they commissioned Wright to design their home. As opposed to the more lavish design of Fallingwater, Kentuck Knob is a small, one story "Usonian" house.

Wright felt that a house of moderate cost was not only America's major architectural problem, but the problem most difficult for major architects to solve. This inspired him to design the Usonian home, the concept of an

affordable home to serve the masses, one uniquely American.

Kentuck Knob's construction materials of native sandstone and tidewater red cypress blend naturally with the surroundings. An open floor plan and great expanses of glass integrate the inside of the house with the outside. Standing on the grounds just behind the back terrace, I was treated to a breathtaking view of the Youghiogheny River Gorge and the Laurel Highlands that surround it.

Our tour of the Kentuck Knob site was enhanced by the chance to see the many sculptures in the gardens and woods around the property. I particularly enjoyed the two sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy, who builds his art in natural surroundings with local materials.

In 1986, Lord Peter Palumbo, a British property developer and art collector, bought the property as a vacation home. He has since moved to a nearby home, providing an opportunity for the public to tour the house.

After seeing Kentuck Knob, I joined the others back on the bus. Our group ended the trip that night with wine and cheese, chocolate chip cookies and, yes, a pleasant and quiet snooze before we arrived back at Camp Hill at about 9 p.m.

So, the next time you think about taking a long day trip, why not seek out a guided bus trip? You can relax, enjoy good food, meet interesting people and, most importantly, sit back, enjoy the trip and as they say, "Leave the driving to us." I think you'll find this departure from the typical trip to be refreshing and a lot of fun. **3**

Don Helin published his first thriller, "Thy Kingdom Come," in 2009. His second, "Devil's Den," has been selected as a finalist in the Indie Book Awards. His third, "Secret Assault," will be published in Spring 2014. Contact him at www.donhelin.com.



THEATER OF THE ROSES

Triple your pleasure with a short drive to York, Lancaster.

BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK



York may be best known for York Barbell and Harley Davidson, and Lancaster County is the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country. But midstate theater-lovers know these nearby cities are home to more than just muscular pursuits and Amish culture.

Just a short hop away, live theater flourishes in both places, giving Harrisburg folks even more options beyond the already-rich offerings in our city and suburbs.

Let's start in the White Rose City (aka, York), which has Dreamwrights Youth and Family Theatre, a nonprofit organization offering experiences in all aspects of the art form.

Founded in 1997, Dreamwrights features eight productions a year, fall and spring classes, weeklong summer camp sessions and outreach.

"Our programming is very process-oriented, based on teamwork, responsibility and healthy self-esteem," said Ann Davis, executive director. "All these are essential in creating a production, and we invite people from age 7 to adult to create and grow."

This year's holiday production is "Miracle on 34th Street"—complete with an indoor Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. "It's a story about believing, loving and doing unto others," said Diane Crews, artistic director/playwright in residence.

Fairly new on the block is the Pullo Center at Penn State York, focusing on concerts, Broadway shows, family entertainment and comedies, said Vickie Hubbard, general manager.

Penn State York's resident theater, Pullo also serves as a venue for tech

rehearsals of touring companies of Broadway shows.

"We have a state-of-the-art theater, which is convenient and has good logistics, such as parking," noted Chris Beaverson, director of marketing and sales. "There are boxes and crates, and the next day the stage is set up. It's a crazy but amazing process."

York Little Theatre's productions appeal to audiences of all ages, noted Lyn Bergdoll, executive director. "We do family shows, a children's series—with performers under 18—but also edgier shows."

Now celebrating its 81st season, YLT is "am-pro," with three paid staff and many volunteers. Recently the theater launched the Belmont Academy, offering professional-level instruction in dance and Broadway musicals, among other areas. It also initiated a program for kids with disabilities.

"I strive to produce innovative shows that will have patrons wanting to see more," said Rene Staub, director of artistic services. "We try to go the extra mile with special effects, costuming and set design..."

Strand Capitol Performing Arts Center, a nonprofit institution, offers diverse programming—ballet, stand-up comedy and family-friendly performances, such as last month's "Hello Dolly."

In the next county over, the arts scene in the Red Rose City (aka, Lancaster) is particularly flourishing.

Fulton Theatre, founded in 1852, is considered to be the nation's oldest continuously operating theater and is one of only eight theaters in the country to be named a National Historic Landmark.

A professional regional company and one of the few Equity (actors' union)

theaters left in central Pennsylvania, Fulton has seven Premier Series productions and four Family Theatre productions each season, in addition to educational and outreach programs.

In 2009, the Fulton produced “Les Miserables,” which Executive Director Aaron Young called the “highlight” of his tenure. “It wasn’t so much the production as what the community felt. People were so excited.”

For the size of the community, added Artistic Director Marc Robin, “Lancaster has a deep appreciation for what the arts bring and a real outpouring of support. Actors here tell us they feel like artists.”

With an eye on the classics and new works, Theater of the Seventh Sister performs in different venues. Recently, it hosted a benefit Shakespeare Cabaret at Community Mennonite Church, featuring area actors in an evening of monologues, scenes and songs.

The Ware Center of Millersville University presents dance, classical music, opera and jazz and Broadway theatrical cabarets.

The American Music Theater focuses on Broadway, Christian, family and classical shows, including the upcoming “Bring It On.” Sight & Sound in Strasberg, the largest Christian venue in the country, brings the Bible to life with elaborate productions.

Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre presents traditional classics and new, critically acclaimed shows, as well as children’s theater, while Rainbow Dinner Theatre in Paradise bills itself as “the only all-comedy dinner theater” in the United States.

Two New York actors, David and Cindy DiSavino, founded Rainbow in 1984 and are the theater’s executive producer and artistic director, respectively.



“We do old and new standard published plays and brand-new ones,” David DiSavino said. “We cover the whole gamut of 20th- to 21st-century plays, including Kaufman and Hart’s “You Can’t Take it With You,” “Arsenic and Old Lace,” “Boeing Boeing,” Neil Simon, a lot of farces by Ray Cooney and Ken Ludwig and murder mysteries.”

Opening the 2014 season is “Weekend Comedy” by Jeanne and Sam Bobrick, a play about an older couple going to the country to rekindle their romance.

In close-by Manheim, you can experience the outdoor Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire from August through October. But live theater enlivens Mt. Hope Mansion on the Faire grounds with its annual “Poe Evermore” and “Dickens of a Christmas” events.

“This year, the characters of ‘Dickens’ will be from Dickens’ novels,” said Mark Sullivan, artistic director. “As at the Faire, the actors remain in character and interact with the audiences; we break the fourth wall as part of our mission.”

Audience members are treated to a few shows in rotation—including, this year, an original musical version of “A Christmas Carol,” a trunk show about the “Nutcracker” and L. Frank Baum’s “A Kidnapped Santa Claus.”

Near Lancaster are Ephrata Performing Arts Center, a nonprofit presenting musical theater as well as stimulating, cutting-edge drama, and Gretna Theatre, a professional summer theater that does primarily musicals and kids’ shows.

There’s lots of theater to experience just a short drive outside of the capital city. So, take to the road to catch a play in York or Lancaster. **B**





STRIPPED DOWN, FIRED UP

Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble goes back to the basics.

BY LORI M. MYERS

*Photo by Kelly Ann Shuler,
kellyannshuler.com*

Stripping a show down, staying simple, getting at the core yet remaining true to the author's intent.

That's what Caitlin Graci Tran, artistic director and founder of Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble, likes about her latest collaboration of eight entertainers whose motto is "Theater that makes you think." It may also well be "Have stage. Will travel." And travel they will, to audiences that are lucky enough to discover Bare Bones' unique theatrical perspective.

"Don't get me wrong," Tran muses. "I love going to see big spectacle shows, but, when I'm directing, I like to make my actors really act instead of relying on all the flash around them."

Take away the stage lights, sets, costumes and

TAKE AWAY THE STAGE LIGHTS, SETS, COSTUMES AND GLITTER, AND WHAT YOU HAVE IS THE ABILITY TO GET INTO THE CHARACTERS YOU ARE WATCHING AND FEEL THEIR EMOTIONS—UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL.

glitter, she insists, and what you have is the ability to get into the characters you are watching and feel their emotions—up close and personal.

"We want to present material that makes our audiences sit back and ponder what they have just experienced," Tran says.

Tran foresees edgier shows geared to the 20-to-40 age group. These include last year's "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," produced by Bare Bones at HMAAC's Stage on Herr in Midtown Harrisburg, and a rock music revue performed downtown at Ceoltas Irish Pub this past summer.

Next is a show planned on Dec. 8 at the Appalachian Brewing Co. in Harrisburg, and Tran and Bare Bones' music director, Sally Bowman Keaveney, are in the process of expanding the rock revue. Tran plans to present the work of Bare Bones inside bars, clubs, colleges and traditional theaters and promises big things on the horizon in 2014.

A midstate native who now lives in Mechanicsburg, Tran recalls being 5 years old and seeing Central Pennsylvania's Youth Ballet's "The Nutcracker" at The Hershey Theatre. Instead of falling asleep as young children tend to do, Tran was mesmerized by it all and screamed out when the toy soldiers tried to kill the mouse king.

She was inspired enough to take ballet classes for many years, learning discipline and dedication. By middle school, her focus shifted from ballet to musical theater. Tran performed in school musicals and at Theatre Harrisburg and, at age 19, left college and moved to New York.

"I loved my time in New York, though it was

far from easy," she recalls. "After living in the Big Apple for several years, I came to realize that my true love was for directing."

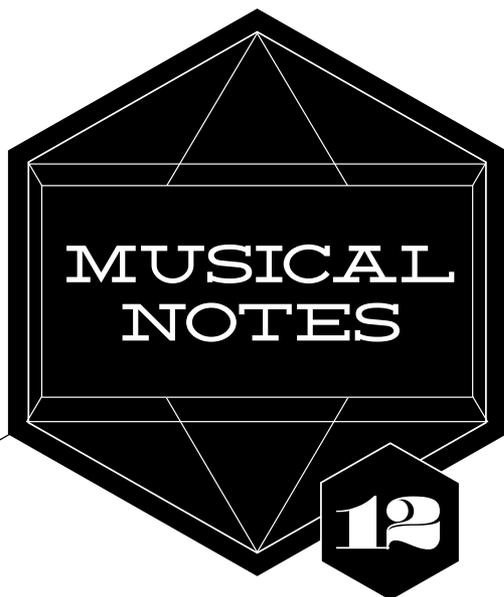
She got in touch with Thomas Hostetter, then Theatre Harrisburg's artistic director, and he gave the go-ahead for Tran to produce and direct a revue and two full productions at the Hurlock Street space.

"I am very grateful for the doors that Tom opened for me," Tran says. "Since then, I have worked with several other local theaters, and now I couldn't be happier with this awesome group of friends in Bare Bones."

Those friends include Becky Mease, Jason Whetstone, Tony Barber, Joseph Chubb, Vince Fazzolari and Joey Bartemus, and each will get to try their hand on different aspects of theater—from directing and choreography to producing and marketing. Tran wants Bare Bones to not only provide entertainment but also to be a learning experience for its members.

"We are a young group, ranging in age from early 20s to late 30s, and we want to give everyone a shot at taking the reins in some of these different aspects," Tran says. "I feel very lucky to be working with each of my fellow ensemble members. We like to laugh and say that, individually, we are a bunch of divas on stage. But, when we are working together, we are all really looking out for the good of the group. It's pretty awesome." **B**

To discover what Bare Bones is up to, visit their Facebook page: Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble.



SEASONAL SOUNDS

Different takes on the Yuletide.

BY DAN WEBSTER

Hark. The show goes on in December, so here are a few holiday offerings. Jeffrey Gaines is our only exception—a hometown hero and a holiday present. So, rock round the clock (and your Christmas tree) in this final month of 2013.

THE CELTS, WHITAKER CENTER, DEC. 5, DOORS AT 7:30 P.M.: The Celts are a straight-out-of-PBS special: Irish jigs, the flute, the fiddle, and the folksy tunes of these Irish-born musicians will bring their traditional set of holiday favorites to Whitaker Center. The “Christmas with the Celts” CD will give you a taste of their seasonal selections. Standards such as “O Holy Night” and “Little Drummer Boy” will be played, and others of Irish origin will be on tap, as well.

TIM WARFIELD, STRAND CAPITOL, DEC. 21, DOORS AT 7:30 P.M.: A York native, saxophonist Tim Warfield and his impressive band, featuring Terell Stafford, will rely less on scat for this performance and more on the solid sounds of holiday faves. Expect some creative arrangements of “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World.” Warfield has appeared on The Today Show and Bill Cosby’s You Bet Your Life, where he was a member of the house band. His presence in the central Pennsylvania jazz scene is prominent, being a board member of the Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz and now artist-in-residence at Messiah College.

JEFFREY GAINES, APPALACHIAN BREWING COMPANY, DEC. 27, DOORS AT 8:00 P.M.: Jeffrey Gaines has been playing the Harrisburg circuit for more than two decades, yet he’s known nationally and internationally for his ruminative songs on love. His claim to fame occurred after his cover of “In Your Eyes” hit a mainstream audience in the early ‘90s. Since his self-titled debut album in 1992, he’s put out four other full-length albums. His ostentatious attire and make-up on stage is in direct contrast to his throaty, yet soulful, voice. His songs are schmaltzy but grounded in theme. Start off with his classics, “Fear” and “A Simple Prayer,” for a taste of his talent. **E**

Mentionables: David Bazan, Mechanicsburg, (location revealed upon purchase), 12/2, doors @ 8 p.m., purchase tickets @ The Undertow.com / Stop Making Sense (Talking Heads Tribute), Appalachian Brewing Company, 12/7, doors @ 9 p.m. / The Irish Tenors, Strand-Capitol, 12/8, doors @ 7:30 p.m.

12 | 5

THE CELTS, DEC. 5
WHITAKER CENTER
222 MARKET ST., HARRISBURG
STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

12 | 7

STOP MAKING SENSE, DEC. 7
APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.
50 N. CAMERON ST.,
HARRISBURG
STARTS AT 9:00 P.M.

12 | 8

THE IRISH TENORS, DEC. 8
STRAND-CAPITOL
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
50 N. GEORGE ST., YORK
STARTS AT 7:30 P.M.

12 | 27

JEFFREY GAINES, DEC. 27
APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.
50 N. CAMERON ST.,
HARRISBURG
STARTS AT 8:00 P.M.



The Celts

STILL LIFE

Newport's Hannah Dobek throws herself into her art.

BY MISSY SMITH

Hannah Dobek stands motionless as people hurry past, many not even noticing her, until someone—maybe a small child—finally stops to take a closer look at the statue that looks remarkably real.

Gracefully poised, Dobek connects with strangers in a way that she feels our quick-paced, over-stimulated lifestyles do not always allow. The mystery and unusualness of her live sculpture art allows people to stop for a minute, step out of their heads and have a real connection with her, even though at first glance she appears to be a permanent fixture.

Dobek's self-taught live statue performances have been receiving much attention in Newport, where she lives with her two children, 8-year-old Ivy and 6-year-old Johnny. In October, the 35-year-old artist—who goes by the performing moniker

"Highway Hannah"—awed attendees of the Little Buffalo Festival, leaving many people wondering what exactly they were looking at. Oftentimes, people do not realize Dobek is a statue until she breaks character to shift her position or perform a friendly gesture upon receiving a tip.

"People's reactions are the best part," she explains. "Everyone reacts differently. Some people will be three-quarters of the way past me until they realize I'm a statue. Connecting with strangers in that way is very interesting. It throws people a curve ball, and they usually really like it. It draws people in where they would normally stay away. I especially like connecting with kids because that is a memory they will always have. And you never know who will become inspired to be an artist."

Dobek entered the statue performance world in 2011, after a friend asked her to take part in the Harrisburg Millennium Music Conference as a living statue. Although she had never performed as a statue, she had been struck by the art form when she was in New Orleans' French Quarter.

"It was the most amazing thing to see people as artwork while other people were walking around," she reflects.

She loved the thought of interacting with people in this way and immediately got to work researching techniques online. After that initial gig as a steam punk angel statue, she began perfecting her craft, picking up performances at other events. Highway Hannah has appeared at a wedding, Newport's Canal Day and a Perry County Council of the Arts' (PCCA) anniversary party. She also performs at concerts for the Lancaster-based progressive rock band Hiding Scarlet.

Standing still as a statue for a long event is no easy feat, and Dobek seemingly pulls it off with minimal effort. In reality, she puts a good amount of work into a successful performance. To prepare, she spends time clearing her mind, meditating and listening to Philip Glass compositions. She gets into character by entering a somewhat hypnotic state, through steady concentration and Zen meditation.

"At first, it was a little frightening, but I learned how I can relax. I sort of enter a state of hypnosis, where I try not to notice people. A lot of it has to do with being able to relax and elevate your focus to what is going on above everything else. It's a serious discipline," she explains.

While life's social niceties and expectations can create anxiety, Dobek finds sculpture performance to be liberating. "You don't have to greet people if you don't want to. You have much more of a say, and your interactions are on your terms," she says. "I feel that it can be difficult to connect with people, because

of social anxieties. It's probably kind of the same as other performers. People who are extroverted or comfortable on stage can be shy in real life."

As a one-woman show, Dobek plans every aspect of her performances, first by creating an artistic vision. She finds an arsenal of inspiration through old folk tales and children's illustrations, Art Nouveau and painters like Salvador Dalí and René Magritte.

"I also draw a lot of inspiration from what Björk does," explains Dobek, referring to the Icelandic musician and performer. "Her husband does a lot of productions in which he uses a lot of white or lack of color. I went through a black stage, or black and red, but I've found a lot of space/spiritualness in white, which can also be creepy in its own way."

Dobek also serves as her own personal costume designer. At last month's Little Buffalo Festival, Dobek showcased her Four Queens: four different characters wearing white head to toe, interpreting the four seasons. "I am really into symbolism," she says. "The four seasons are like the seasons of life."

For each queen, Dobek handcrafted headpieces by adorning crowns with natural materials like branches and leaves, odds and ends from thrift and junk shops, spray paint and glitter.

Also a mixed media and collage artist, Dobek has made a habit of collecting odd items that pique her curiosity, finding these art material treasures at thrift stores, junk shops and even in the trash. Some of her favorite items, like puzzle pieces and dolls, add symbolic emphasis to her surrealist artwork, which was on display last month at Metropolis Collective's all-woman "Whimsy" exhibition. Even though it may seem daunting to stand still in front of people, Dobek says that she feels much more vulnerable through her other artwork.

"[My sculptures] have become pretty easy, because it's not really me [performing], it's an alter ego," she explains. "My visual art is much more personal."

Dobek has received a lot of attention recently. She has made her rounds as various statue characters at local gigs. She was named the PCCA's 2012 Breakout Artist of the Year, an honor that was created specifically for her. A handful of local newspapers have featured stories on Dobek's live sculpture work. And, most recently, she landed a job at Metropolis Collective in Mechanicsburg after previously working at Espresso Yourself Cafe, where she had become a favorite barista with Newport locals. Positive things are happening for Dobek—and quickly.

"[The attention] makes me want to hole up in my apartment," she laughs. "It makes me more nervous than fulfilled, but that goes along with it."

For Dobek, her art embodies imagination and enchantment that we don't often experience in our daily lives. It's important to her that people enjoy the whimsy in her sculpture work, which she then senses.

"There's a wonderment missing from our world. To see someone doing something weird or unconventional gives people a sense of hope. Being fun and whimsical in general is important to get through life," she explains. "If people are inspired at all in any way to feel something through my art, that is a big deal." **E**



COMMUNITY CORNER

Cars & Christmas Celebration

Dec. 1-Jan. 15: The galleries of the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum will all be transformed into wintery wonderlands featuring Christmas trees and a variety of themed special exhibits for the holiday season. Special exhibits include a display of snowmobiles, sleds and sleighs and "Sammy The Snow Plow." Standard admission prices apply. For more information, visit aacamuseum.org.

Trains and Trees

Dec. 1-Jan. 1: Experience a display of model trains and themed trees with the return of the season's Holiday Trains and Trees exhibition in the Gloria M. Olewine Gallery in Whitaker Center. For more information and tickets, visit whitakercenter.org.

Christmas at Fort Hunter

Dec. 1-22: For the month of December, Fort Hunter will be bright with holiday trimmings, decorated with fresh greens, fruits and fresh flowers. Open every day but Monday, guided tours highlighting the holiday decorations and customs will be provided. For more information, visit forthunter.org.

Hershey Sweet Lights

Dec. 1-30: Get ready for the holiday spirit as Hershey illuminates more than 600 animated displays for onlookers as they drive by. The lights will be located between Route 39 and Sand Beach Road in Hershey. For more information and admission prices, visit Hersheypark.com.

Hersheypark Christmas Candylane

Dec. 1-31: Hersheypark decks the halls for December. With 2 million twinkling lights, more than 30 rides and Hershey characters out and about in their holiday best, the park is prepared for the holidays. For more information and specific holiday attractions, visit christmasinhershey.com.

Deck the Halls Celebration

Dec. 4: The John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion will once again host "Deck the Hall," a holiday celebration and recognition event. The evening starts at 5:30 p.m. with wine, beer and hors d'oeuvres, as well as dessert. In its 19th year, this major fundraiser for the Historical Society is crucial in supporting its educational and research programs, as well as the national landmark itself. For more information, please visit dauphincountyhistory.org.

2013 Catalyst Awards

Dec. 4: Each year, the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC honor local businesses and individuals for their contributions to our local community. The event, called "It's a Wonderful Region," will begin at 5 p.m. at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg with a short reception followed by the awards program. General admission is \$85, \$75 member rate. For more information, visit harrisburgregionalchamber.org.

International House 11th Anniversary

Dec. 4: Join the International House for a continental breakfast as it dedicates its Legacy Lounge with friends and partners. The breakfast begins at 7 a.m. and concludes at 9 a.m. The event will be held at International House, 29 S. 3rd St., Harrisburg. For more information, visit ihousehbg.org.

2013 Pennsylvania Christmas & Gift Show

Dec. 4-8: Be warm with Christmas spirit as people from across the state converge to share in gifts, crafts and merriment. This year's show at the PA Farm Show Complex will host more than 500 specialty shops selling a wide array of unique holiday gifts. Hours of the show will be 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Individual tickets are \$7 per person, \$5 for seniors; group rates also apply. For more information, visit pachristmasshow.com.

Craft Reunion

Dec. 6-8: Lovers of crafts and handmade gifts are welcome to appreciate and purchase one-of-a-kind creations at the Craft Reunion, located in the Centennial Barn in Fort Hunter. Sculptures, rustic furniture, jewelry, pottery and fine art pieces will be sold. The event will run noon to 9 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. For more information visit forthunter.org.

"Twas the Night Before Christmas"

Dec. 7: A twist on the classic Christmas tale, Studio 91 presents its own unique rendition with more than 175 dancers performing. Doors will open at 1 p.m. at the Cumberland Valley High School Performing Arts Center in Mechanicsburg. Tickets are \$13.50 per person. For more information, visit studio91.com or call 717-691-5567.

24th Annual Bistro Fundraiser

Dec. 8: Escape the cold and join the Market Square Presbyterian Church at a festive, all-you-can-eat holiday bistro, noon to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. All proceeds support the HELP Ministries of Christian Churches United assisting local communities and families in need. For additional information, visit marketsquarechurch.org.

Annual Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 8: Visit Santa, create unique holiday crafts and enjoy entertainment and refreshments as the Zembo Shrine Center hosts this holiday celebration for kids. Open to children 10 years and younger, they are encouraged to bring gifts and toys to donate for children at the Philadelphia Shriners Hospital. The event will begin at 1 p.m. in the Zembo Auditorium in Harrisburg and conclude at 3 p.m. For more information and donation guidelines, visit zembo.org.

Christmas at the Harris-Cameron Mansion

Dec. 8: Santa is coming to town at the John Harris-Simon Cameron Mansion. Come see the mansion decorated in Christmas decorations, including a special exhibit of antique toys. Refreshments will be served, and the museum shop will be open. Admission is a suggested donation of \$5 for adults; children under 12 are free. The event will be held 1 to 4 p.m. For more, visit www.dauphincountyhistory.org.

Green Sale

Dec. 8: Decorate for the holidays with handmade boxwood trees and topiaries, pine candle rings and more items sold at the Continental Barn in Fort Hunter. The sales begin at 11 a.m. and will continue until all is sold out. For more information, visit forthunter.org.

Holiday Champagne Brunch

Dec. 8: The Civic Club of Harrisburg will host its annual Holiday Champagne Brunch beginning at 1 p.m. at the Club, 612 N. Front St., Harrisburg. Cost of the event is \$32 per person and guests will be entertained by members of the Harrisburg Choral Society. Please bring gifts of toys and monetary donations to assist the Junior League of Greater Harrisburg's program of helping needy families. For more information or to make a reservation, call the club at 717-234-4736. Reservations also can be made at the organization's email address, civicclubhbg@gmail.com.

Home for the Holidays

Dec. 10: Join the Eaken Piano Trio at the 24th annual "Home for the Holidays" concert. The concert begins at 7 p.m. at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Front Street, Harrisburg. A gourmet reception follows. All proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of the Greater Harrisburg Area. The event is free, but donations are encouraged. For a \$25 donation, seats can be reserved in advance by calling the Habitat office at 717-545-7299.

Holiday Networking Mixer

Dec. 12: The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual business networking holiday mixer featuring the Harrisburg Gay Men's Chorus and Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus. The event runs 6-8 p.m. at the Jay & Nancy Krevsky Production Center, 513 Hurlock St., Harrisburg. The event is free for members and \$10 for prospective members. For more information, visit <http://cpglcc.org>.

Get On Board

Dec. 20: Swing down to the "Get on Board" skateboard art show to benefit the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area. Presented by Rayzor Tattoos, the show features custom artwork on skateboard decks from locally and nationally renowned tattoo and fine artists. The show will run 6 to 9 p.m. at Little Amps Coffee Roasters, 1836 Green St., Harrisburg. The boards then will be on display for one month. All proceeds support Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area. For more information, visit facebook.com/getonboardforautism.

A Candlelight Christmas

Dec. 20-22: Enjoy a warm, candlelit Christmas performance as the Susquehanna Chorale performs three nights in a row. Listen in at three venues: Messiah College, Elizabethtown College or the Market Square Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and \$5 for students. For more information, visit susquehannachorale.org.

"Countdown to Noon"

Dec. 31: Welcome the New Year and get a full night's rest as the Popcorn Hat Players present the 21st annual "Countdown to Noon," a fun-filled day of entertainment for kids. The afternoon celebration and entertainment is hosted at Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. The show begins at 11 a.m. and includes a performance of "Snow White and the Two Dwarfs." For more information and tickets, visit gamutplays.org.

MUSEUM & ART SPACES

Art Association of Harrisburg

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

"Five Artist Invitational," an exhibit of photographs, paintings, sculpture and mixed media by five regional artists, through Jan. 2; reception Dec. 6, 5-8 p.m.

The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Watercolor paintings by Jon Tritt, through December.

Fenêtre Gallery

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

"The Mighty Ballpoint," drawings by Cynthia Brantley, through Dec. 13.

Fort Hunter

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

"Toy Train Exhibit," a display by the Keystone Model Railroad Historical Society of a large train exhibit modeled after communities in Central PA, every Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 22.

Gallery@Second

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

Works by Randy McCurdy and Jo Ann Neal, through Dec. 7.

Photographs by Jeff Lynch and paintings by Gene Suchma, Dec. 12-Feb. 1; reception Dec. 20, 6-9 p.m.

National Civil War Museum

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

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

"In the Service of Our Nation: Conscription during the Civil War," an exhibit examining the reasoning that led to conscription acts during the Civil War, through June.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

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

"Only Owls," an exhibit of art giving a glimpse into the world of owls through a variety of stylistic approaches by more than 30 artists, through March 15.

Little Amps Coffee Roasters

1836 Green St., Harrisburg
717-695-4882; littleampscoffee.com

"Get On Board," a display of custom artwork on skateboard decks from locally and nationally renowned tattoo and fine artists, benefiting the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area; reception, Dec. 20, 6-9 p.m.

The LGBT Center Gallery

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

"Year in Review," an exhibition of artwork from the past year; showcase and sale, Dec. 20, beginning at 6 p.m.

Wildwood Park

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

"Photography Contest Display," an exhibit of photographs from Wildwood's Annual Photography Contest, Dec. 17-Jan. 18.

Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall

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

"Contemporary Impressionism," an exhibition of 29 paintings and photographs with the theme of impressionism in a unique style, through Jan. 9.

Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar

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

"Paper Cuts," abstract paper cuttings exploring negative space and small color pallets by Mickey McGarrity, through Dec. 15.

"Holiday Art Show," local artists exhibit a variety of holiday themed artworks, Dec. 10-Jan. 12; reception, Dec. 20, 6-10 p.m.

READ, MAKE, LEARN

Fort Hunter

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

Dec. 7: Wreath-Making Workshop, 10:30 a.m.-noon

Dec. 8: Victorian Tea Tasting, 1-4 p.m.

Dec. 8: Open Hearth Cooking Demonstration, 12:30-4 p.m.

Dec. 14: Santa's Reindeer at Fort Hunter, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

The LGBT Center of Central PA

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

centralpalgbtcenter.org

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Common Roads Harrisburg, 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 5: Women's Group, 7 p.m.

Dec. 5, 12, 19: The Curve, 6 p.m.

Dec. 5, 12, 19, 26: Buddhist Meditation Classes, 7 p.m.

Dec. 12: Aging with Pride Lunchtime Discussion, noon-2:30 p.m.

Dec. 13: Movies with Substance and Thought, 7 p.m.

Dec. 14: TransCentral PA Meeting, 8 p.m.

The MakeSpace

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

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Make Space Yoga, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Dec. 7: Collagery, 1-2 p.m.

Dec. 12: Untitled (Stories), 8-9 p.m.

Dec. 15: Art Book Club, 8-9 p.m.

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: TED Talks, 1 p.m.

Dec. 2: Swing Dance, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 3: Sci-Fi Writers Group, 7 p.m.

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Midtown Chess Club, 11 a.m.

Dec. 5, 12, 19: Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.

Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Wordshop and Jump Street, Inc. presents Poetry Night, 7 p.m.

Dec. 7: Diane Bolyard & Jane Alleman Book Signing, 11 a.m.

Dec. 7: Carraig School of Irish Dance Performance, 11 a.m.

Dec. 7: Poetry Reading & Signing by Geoffrey Godbey, 1 p.m.

Dec. 8, 12: Young Dauphin County Democrats Meeting, 7 p.m.

Dec. 11: Friends of Midtown: Events Meeting, 6 p.m.

Dec. 12, 19: Camp Curtin Toastmasters, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: Book Signing & Debate with Andrew Murtaugh, 3 p.m.

Dec. 15: Philosophy Salon: Open Discussion, 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 15: LGBT Book Club, 5 p.m.

Dec. 17: Broad Street Market Community Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 18: Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, 7 p.m.

Dec. 19: Banned Books Book Club, 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: Coffee Education w/Staff, noon

Dec. 20: Tea Tasting w/Staff, 2 p.m.

Dec. 20: TMI Improv, 7 p.m.

Dec. 20: Comedy Night at the Scholar, 8 p.m.

Dec. 21: Snow Storytime w/Jonathan Bean, 11 a.m.

Dec. 20: Poison Book Club, 5 p.m.

Dec. 22: Harrisburg Young Professionals Book Club, 2 p.m.

Dec. 29: Jen Barton Book Signing, 1 p.m.

Dec. 30: Front Lines International Discussion Panel, 5 p.m.

Wildwood Park

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

Dec. 7: Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon.

Dec. 8: Natural Ornaments Workshop, 1-3 p.m.

LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

Appalachian Brewing Co./ Abbey Bar

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

Dec. 6: Miz Trio

Dec. 7: Start Making Sense!

Dec. 8: Bare Bones Theatre Ensemble's Ugly Christmas Sweater Revue

Dec. 8: The Oxymorons

Dec. 14: Very Herbie X-Mas and CD Release Party

Dec. 21: Splintered Sunlight: Solstice Shakedown Party

Dec. 27: Jeffrey Gaines

Central PA Friends of Jazz

717-540-1010; friendsofjazz.org

Dec. 15: Jam Session, at MJ's Coffeehouse Annville

The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

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

Dec. 6: Kato Griffith

Dec. 7: Joe Cooney

Dec. 8: Paul Zavinsky

Dec. 13: Kevin Kline

Dec. 14: Steven Gellman

Dec. 15: Antonio Andrade

Dec. 20: Kato Griffith

Dec. 21: Kat Hart

Dec. 22: Betsy Barnicle

Fed Live

234 N 2nd St, Harrisburg
717-525-8077; fedlive.net

Dec. 14: Martini Bros. w/Dead at 50

Fort Hunter

5300 North Front St., Harrisburg
717-599-5751; forhunter.org

Dec. 11: Harp Concert
Dec. 22: Brass Triumphant
in Concert

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

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

Dec. 14: HSYO Play-A-Thon

Hershey Theatre

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

Dec. 6: Hershey Symphony
Orchestra
Dec. 7: Straight No Chaser

HMAC/Stage on Herr

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

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Open Mic Night
w/Mike Banks
Dec. 5: Nate Myers Trio
Dec. 7: The Fleshtones w/Amy Gore
and her Valentines
Dec. 12: Strangest of Places
Dec. 13: The Dirty Sweet
Dec. 14: Colebrook Road
w/Tuckahoe Ridge & Drymill Road
Dec. 15: Izzy and the Catastrophics
Dec. 19: Mojo Flamenco
Dec. 20: Timmy and the Creeping
Thyme w/Mileunder
Dec. 21: Driftwood, The Passionettes
Dec. 26: The Great Socio w/Adam
Stehr Band
Dec. 27: Crobot w/Observe
the 93rd
Dec. 28: Brunklebanger
Doppelganger

The MakeSpace

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

Dec. 5: Shine
Dec. 6: Taylor Mali
Dec. 9: eric + erica

Mangia Qui & Suba

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

Dec. 6: Kris Kehr
Dec. 7: The Cornlickers
Dec. 13: Cait Cuneo
Dec. 14: Tori Vazquez
Dec. 20: The Robert Bobby Trio
Dec. 21: Batida
Dec. 27: Nate Myers & The Aces
Dec. 28: TBA

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

Dec. 4: Trez School of Music
Student Performances
Dec. 7: Good News Café
Dec. 13: Cosette Gobat
Dec. 14: Gordy Christmas Band
Dec. 22: Justin Daugherty
Dec. 28: Chris Gassaway &
Nathan Jekel

MoMo's BBQ & Grille

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

Dec. 3, 10, 17: Rhyne McCormick
Dec. 4, 11, 18: Open Mic
w/Chuck Britton
Dec. 5: Autumn Brew
Dec. 6: Octavia Harp
Dec. 12: Eric Bohn
Dec. 20: Nate Myers Band

The Tomato Pie Café

3950 TecPort Dr., Harrisburg;
717-836-7051; tomatopiecafe.net

Dec. 7: Paul Zavinsky
Dec. 14: Julie Moffit
Dec. 28: Seasons

St. Thomas Roasters

5951 Linglestown Rd., Linglestown
717-526-4171; stthomasroasters.com

Dec. 6: Cotolo
Dec. 7: Grit
Dec. 12: Kelsey & Brendan
Dec. 13: Sterling Koch
Dec. 14: Just Dave
Dec. 20: Channalia
Dec. 21: Joe Trojack & Friends
Dec. 27: Relics of Medievalism
Dec. 28: Adam

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

717-745-6577; sfmsfolk.org

Dec. 6: World Music Concert (at
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg)
Dec. 15: December Jam Session
(at the Fort Hunter Barn)

Whitaker Center

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

Dec. 5: Christmas with the Celts
Dec. 28: Get the Led Out

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

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

Dec. 6, 7: Bob Zany w/Adam Degi
Dec. 13, 14: Chris Monty
w/M. Dickenson
Dec. 20, 21: Joe DeVito
w/Ron Placone
Dec. 27, 28: Dave Dyer
w/DL Hamilton

Christian Performing Arts Center

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

Dec. 13-15: "We 3 Spies"

Hershey Area Playhouse

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

Dec. 5-8, 12-14: "A Christmas Carol"

Hershey Theatre

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

Dec. 8: Brian Regan
Dec. 10-15: "War Horse"
Dec. 21-22: George Balanchine's
"The Nutcracker"

The LGBT Center of Central PA

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

Dec. 5-21: "Fiddler On the Roof"

Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg

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

Dec. 6-7, 12-15: "Dashing Through
the Snow"

Open Stage of Harrisburg

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

Nov. 29-Dec. 29: "A Christmas
Memory"

Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

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

Dec. 2-24: "Beauty and the Beast"
Dec. 13-22: "Santa Claus Is Coming
to Town"

Whitaker Center

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

Dec. 14, 15: George Balanchine's
"The Nutcracker"



THE BURG

WISHES EVERYONE

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

&

A JOYOUS
NEW YEAR!





FEATURED PROFILE | @CARLIFELDMAN

CARLI FELDMAN

Administrative assistant with the Sierra Club, with a background in creative expression, aesthetics and design. I enjoy working with my hands and exploring beyond the same old same old. I appreciate thoughtfulness and quality in things I find enjoyable. Less is more, simple is better.

FAVORITE PHOTOGRAPHER:
Leslie Williamson

INSPIRATIONS:
Clean lines and muted color palettes with perennial design elements. Well-crafted design that incorporates form and function.

CREATIVE OUTLETS:
Seasonal cooking

FAVORITE HANGOUT IN HARRISBURG:
Wildwood Park



F ASHLEY FISHER
C AFISH3380



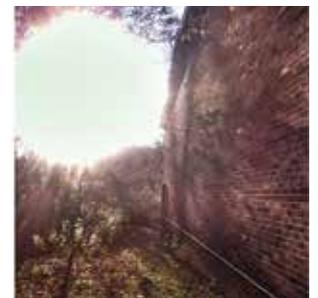
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C WILLISDAVIS



F TIM WEHNERT
C PABIKENUT



F SHANNON STIFFLER
C MISTER_STIFFLER



F JEREMY STRYKER
C JSTRYKER19



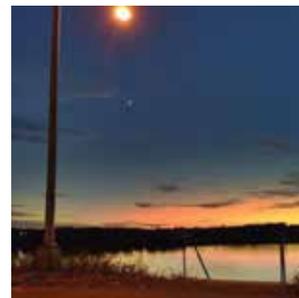
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F NICK BAILEY
C NIQBAILEY



F PAMELA CHEN
C PAMELA_CHEN



F EVEN SMEDLEY
C EVANSMEDLEY



F HALEY HARNED
C HALEBOT



F JENNIFER GROVE
C JENNGROVE



F HEATHER MICHAEL
C LADYMIKE



F DOUGLAS ALBERT BUTARI
C DOUGLAS_ALBERT



F KELSIE PLANTE
C KELSPANTE



F TIERNEY POMONE
C TYRANNYTIERNEY

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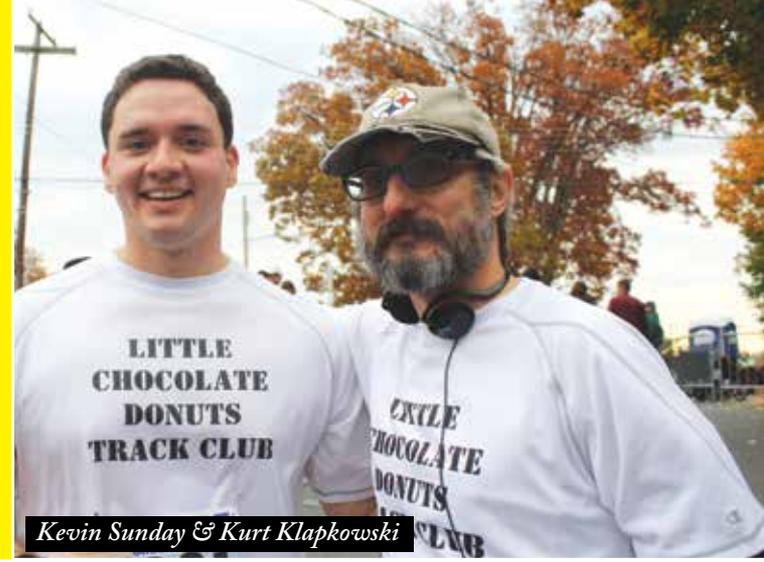
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Moon Lee & James Kim

HARRISBURG MARATHON

A brisk fall day greeted the runners for the 2013 Harrisburg Marathon & Relay. The annual event started and ended on City Island, taking runners through downtown Harrisburg, along the Susquehanna River and over the hills of Wildwood Park. All proceeds benefited youth and family programs at the Harrisburg Area YMCA, which wrapped up its race season until next spring. Congrats to all the participants!



Kevin Sunday & Kurt Klappkowski



Chris Dupkanick & Leroy Zook



Marisa Jones & Krisinda Rublman



Claire Green

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



Katie Zielinski & Lawanna Williams



Al DeVine & Carol Watkins



Valaree Baxter & Jeremy Booth



Angela Butler

2013 BUSINESS EXPO

People socialized, networked, bought and sold at the 2013 Business Expo, sponsored by the Harrisburg Regional Chamber of Commerce & CREDC. The annual event at the PA Farm Show Complex attracted thousands of attendees and exhibitors seeking advice, contacts, leads and knowledge. TheBurg was delighted to pass out copies of our magazine, chat with Expo-goers and share all the wonderful things about the greater Harrisburg area.



Dave Rojahn, Mike Reilly, & Joe Jackson



The mud was inescapable. It wrapped its thick tentacles around your feet and waist, shoulders and arms, even up to your neck and hair.

It didn't matter where you ran, the mud found you. It only made sense to accept the mass for what it was: an unavoidable nemesis.

It didn't help that Tough Mudder, the fast-growing obstacle series that tests individuals in physical and mental challenges, shuttled in countless gallons of the substance on to the course for good measure, but that's what this event was all about anyway.

Getting dirty.

And challenging your preconceived notions of what was physically possible to endure.

Over the last three years, Tough Mudder has become a vehicle for physical pain. The Tough Mudder company began with just three events in 2010 to 35 just two years later, with stops all across the world. In 2012, 460,000 participants joined in the fun. In the process, the company donated more than \$4 million to the Wounded Warriors Project, a foundation that is recognized before each event.

The race, which isn't timed, has become a vessel for team building and a melting pot for strengthening relationships. Weekend warriors head out the door nearly every Saturday and Sunday of the year to participate in the series, which has individuals run 10 to 12 miles, jump off 15-foot platforms, dart through electroshock wires and climb 15-foot walls.

It's also fun to participate in. That's a big reason why Harrisburg Young Professionals (HYP) stocked an eight-man team in October in West Virginia to take part in the Mid-Atlantic Tough Mudder.

Organized by HYP running club chairman Luke Sheaffer, the team was comprised of Hannah Walsh, Nadya Chmil, Bryant Siegfried, Adam Drake, Jeremy Gatens, Quyen Dao and this writer.

The group gathered in West Virginia for the race, which just earlier this year had endured its first tragedy: 28-year-old Avishek Sengupta died after jumping into a 12-foot pool of cold water.

But the prior distress seemed to inspire those competing. With each member of the group entering the race with varying schedules and fitness levels, finishing the course became a rallying point.

As the field set off toward its journey, the group organized itself by tagging numerical units to a person and crying out those codes after each obstacle.

"The system of calling off numbers to account for everyone was something we came up with as we did the race," Sheaffer said. "It gave us peace of mind knowing we had an easy way to keep together."

We smushed our faces to the ground for the first time at the Kiss of Mud, an obstacle that saw us crawl under barbed wire that progressively lowered.

JOY IN MUDVILLE

How a group of HYP members achieved personal accomplishment while getting dirty—really dirty—legging out one of the world's toughest obstacle courses.

BY CORY MULL



Dirty deed: These HYPers teamed up for the Tough Mudder.

While there, a sense of foreboding overcame me if only because—if this was the beginning of the pain, what would be the end?

Sheaffer and Gatens, who wore matching, military-style cargo pants and HYP T-shirts, popped up from the obstacle as mud statues, the substance caked onto every part of their body.

Sheaffer waited for each team member to finish before beginning the chain of command.

"1," he called out.

In progressive fashion, the group followed like a military unit.

"2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8."

And on the event went, our feet wading through mud at every corner, before we were met with Arctic Enema, otherwise known as a tub of really, really cold water.

The day was brisk, nearly 50 degrees with mild gusts of wind. As my feet hit the tub, there was a moment of emptiness before complete shock pulsed through my

body. I waded through the water, immersing my head over a partition, before ejecting out of the tub, seemingly frozen to the core.

This is what Tough Mudder does. It asks you to dive in without warning and forces you to come to terms with fears. But it also teaches you to respond, quickly, without much thought.

Five miles into the journey, after more endless mud, we were met with the Electric Eel, a watery pool with dangling electrical wires touching the surface. Siegfried snaked through the obstacle as if it were a Slip'N Slide. Gatens muffed and hawed as he slithered through the charged waters.

Walsh hummed and groaned with every muscle-jarring shock. Sheaffer cackled near inches from the finish as a jarring volt of electricity throttled through his buttocks.

Less than a quarter-mile later, we were met with the 15-foot Berlin Walls. The only way around was over them. And it was here where teamwork began to make a difference.

"This obstacle, more than any of the others, told me we could count on everyone for help on whatever the Tough Mudder had in store next," Sheaffer said.

The captain hopped to the top and proceeded to lend a hand to those below, acting as a booster for those with difficulty reaching the top.

The group pushed through each mile and each obstacle, using grit and determination to mend off physical duress and mental anguish. The mud—that was simply an annoyance.

In all, the Mid-Atlantic course featured 25 obstacles and 10 miles of draining long distance running. Thousands of competitors layered the course. A team from Virginia Military Institute carried the school flag through the entire course.

One competitor completed the journey with an artificial leg. Countless others overcame obstacles in one way or another.

The last hazard, which is the cap to every Tough Mudder, put the team face-to-face with Electroshock Therapy, a 10-yard zone with dangling electrical wires.

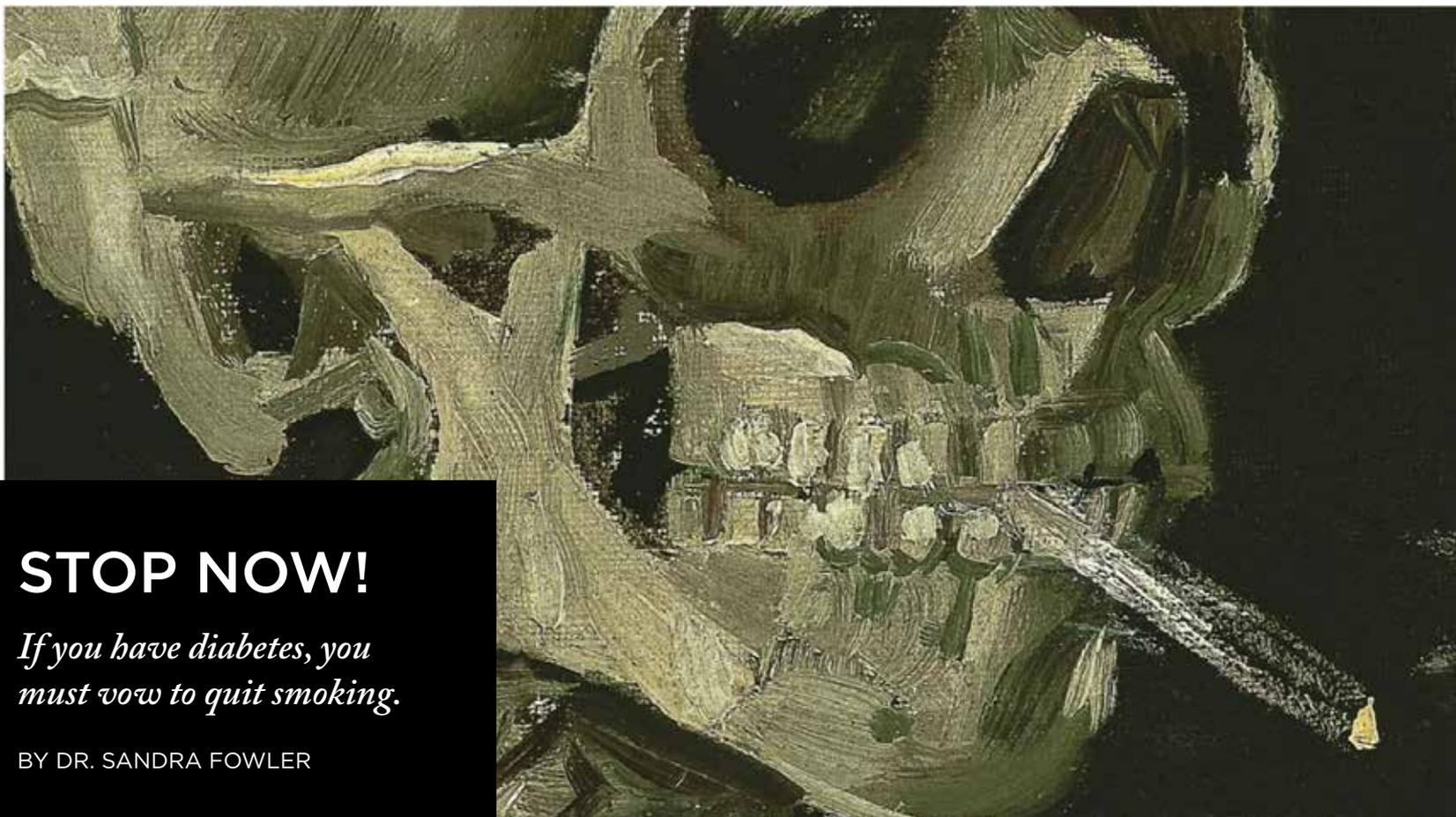
Knowing nothing else stood in our way, we rushed onward, only to find the most pain we had endured all day. Gatens was shocked so hard, he stopped halfway through on a barrel of hay.

Chmil toppled to the ground with another gigantic jolt. And Walsh face-planted at the finish upon meeting a rush of electricity on the last dangling wire she encountered.

A few moments later, with just a quarter-mile to the finish line, Sheaffer did one last role call to finish out the day.

"1," he panted. "2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6 ... 7 ... 8." **B**

Find out more about Tough Mudder, including 2014 events, at <http://toughmudder.com>.



Vincent van Gogh, *Head of a skeleton with a burning cigarette*, 1886.

STOP NOW!

If you have diabetes, you must vow to quit smoking.

BY DR. SANDRA FOWLER

Smoking is bad news. It is the leading cause of avoidable death in the United States, accounting for nearly half-a-million deaths each year. Smoking also increases your risk of incurring a number of diabetes complications.

Everyone knows smoking causes lung cancer, and more people die of lung cancer each year in this country than of any other type of cancer. But did you know that smoking can affect the health of your heart, kidneys, eyes, nerves, muscles and joints and more?

Those with diabetes are three times more likely to die of cardiovascular disease, such as heart attack or stroke, but, add in smoking, and that risk multiplies. That's because smoking:

- Decreases the amount of oxygen reaching tissues
- Increases cholesterol levels and the levels of some other fats in your blood
- Damages and constricts blood vessels
- Increases blood pressure
- Increases your blood sugar levels and decreases your body's ability to use insulin, making it more difficult to control your diabetes

When blood vessels are constricted, the amount of blood circulating in arteries and veins is limited. This can lead to peripheral vascular disease, which can worsen foot ulcers and contribute to leg and foot infections. In addition, smokers with diabetes are at increased risk of developing nerve damage (diabetic neuropathy), kidney disease (diabetic nephropathy) and eye disease (diabetic retinopathy).

In addition to lung cancer, smoking may also contribute to mouth, throat and bladder cancers. Those who smoke are more susceptible to colds and respiratory infections. Smoking increases muscle and joint pain. Smoking also can cause impotence in men and miscarriage or stillbirth in pregnant women.

If you are a smoker, you know you should quit. The good news is, no matter how long you've smoked, your health will improve after you quit. Fortunately, there are many new medications and successful programs out there to help you quit smoking. If you smoke and are ready to quit, ask your friends and family members who have quit for advice or ask your doctor to refer you to a program for help.

Why is it so hard to quit? Simply put, nicotine is among the most addictive drugs. Smoking is not a habit or a lifestyle choice. It's an addiction that, over time, changes

brain chemistry. Nicotine has its effect by attaching to certain receptors in the brain, and, when you become a smoker, these receptors increase in number. If not regularly stimulated with nicotine, the increased receptors begin to make a person feel very unpleasant, a phenomenon known as withdrawal.

The first critical step is to make the decision to quit. It may help to set a firm, short-term quit date. In the meantime, get as much information as you can from your doctor or pharmacist about options to help you quit, including medications that can increase your chances of success by three to four times.

So, what can help you quit smoking?

Nicotine replacement therapy—The first line of treatment is nicotine replacement therapy, whether in the form of a gum, patch or inhaler, to help ease withdrawal symptoms. Nicotine replacement therapy is now available without a prescription in pharmacies. It is very safe, even for people with heart disease, pregnant women or teenagers, and it's important when using it to know that you can use as much as is necessary to stem your particular cravings.

Oral medications—There are prescription medications that can help to decrease smoking cravings. Like any prescription drugs, they can have side effects and may not be right for everyone.

Lifestyle changes—Smoking often is associated with strong cues. So, as you move toward a quit date, you should get a sense of where and when you smoke and identify some strategies to bypass those situations. If you typically smoke after dinner, take a walk instead. Just as you may plan to adjust your food intake or insulin dosage, consider in advance how you will handle these situations. Enlist your family and friends in the effort. Make sure they understand how important it is for you to quit smoking and how hard it may be, and ask for their support. For some people, joining a support group, along with others who are also trying to quit, is helpful. Your doctor may have some information on groups or classes in your community.

Making the transition from smoker to nonsmoker is not easy, and you may have a lapse. If you do, give yourself a break. Don't focus on the one cigarette you just had, but remember the hundreds you haven't had since you quit. Manage your quitting plan much like you manage your diabetes—take it one day at a time. **E**

Sandra Fowler, MD, practices at PinnacleHealth FamilyCare, Silver Spring.

“MAN IN THE FIELD”

Paul Barker on Election Day evening spent with mayoral candidate Aaron Johnson and his supporters at Rookie’s.

Then the television, piercing as ever, declared that Papenfuse had won. Johnson muttered something to the waitress, and she muted the screens. He stood with his back to the room for a moment, looking at the television and wiping his lips. He spun around, paced a moment, and turned back to the TV. Nothing in particular was on. Voices in the room dimmed to whispers. Johnson spun again and strode forward.

“Hey everybody, gather here,” he said. “I know it’s late now. I want to say a few words to everybody.”

Someone said his name. The room erupted in applause. Johnson scratched his head.

“First of all, thank you to everybody who supported me. It means a whole lot to me, because again, I didn’t know what I was getting myself into. For you to have that sort of confidence in me, that I could become a good mayor... it means a lot...”

“We started the race in August. We got a shoestring budget. But it’s important for me, that these kids can look at me and respect who I am. And that’s important to me. I’m gonna be straight with them. We got a meeting tomorrow at 9 o’clock. We’re gonna try to identify, who are the black leaders in Harrisburg? ‘Cause we ain’t got none. We need to identify them, because we need to be sitting at these tables, making these decisions...”

“I’m gonna be off tomorrow, I can tell you that.” The room laughed. “But Thursday, I’ll get your trash, don’t worry about it. Whoever the commander in chief is, I’m gonna make sure they’re OK. I protect whoever the mayor is, because that’s my job.

“I just want to thank you again for coming out, supporting me, believing in me—”

“We love you, Aaron!” someone cried. There was another round of applause. Johnson had hands to shake and people to say goodnight to. He thanked the room once more, stepped out of the spotlight, and got to work.

“SAME OLD CITY”

Lawrance Binda on whether the Papenfuse/Miller rematch for mayor was worth risking further divisions and acrimony in Harrisburg.

The race, in fact, did spark exactly the negativity I feared. Both sides hurled their share of barbs, with Miller notably more negative than during the primary campaign. This is no surprise, as challengers and candidates who face longer odds often go on the attack.

So, as the campaign wore on, Miller exploited and mischaracterized the issue of Papenfuse’s personal debt, while returning again and again to his campaign donors, in one mailer even turning Papenfuse into a marionette, implying that his wealthy contributors would pull his strings. Papenfuse responded with his own questionable assertions, such as calling Miller a career politician and comparing him to a chameleon.

But, if you listened carefully, the candidates did offer substantive, interesting discussion that may have been lost had Miller stayed out. The Harrisburg Strong recovery plan was debated extensively, though I’m not sure many minds were changed. City management, priorities, debt, public safety, education, economic development and many other issues all were addressed through debates, interviews and campaign speeches. It is my belief that many residents are better informed as a result, though at a rather high cost.

Last August, after Miller announced that he would run on the Republican side, setting up the rematch, I summed up the coming general election contest with this: Harrisburg, are you really, really sure you want Eric Papenfuse, not Dan Miller, as your mayor?

After another tough, bitter contest, the answer certainly appears to be “yes.”

“COMMUNICATION BREAKDOWN”

Paul Barker on how a dispute over privatizing trash collection again defaults back to the persistent communications problem between the administration and City Council.

In the wake of financial crisis, and under the terms of receivership, the procedures of city governance have been thrown into confusion. That’s partly due to the legal implications of state oversight, which remain a matter of controversy. And it’s partly due to the extraordinary workload that the receiver, council and the administration all bear, which allows things to slip by unnoticed, even when they’re publicly aired.

But it’s also a consequence—familarly, regrettably and avoidably—of the persistent lack of communication between the mayor and council. On Wednesday night, council laid this at the door of the mayor, and not without reason. She has squabbled

BEST OF THE BURG BLOG

Some highlights from our blog posts over the past month. Read the full posts at:

WWW.THEBURGNEWS.COM

with council over the extent of her powers almost since the moment she was elected. (She has also regularly skipped both their meetings and the receiver’s advisory meetings, preferring to communicate through delegates, which may go a long way towards explaining the frequent disputes.)

In this case, though, council shares the blame. If privatization matters so much now, it should have mattered seven months ago, when the process to privatize started. This late in the game, after plenty of opportunities to get involved, it’s irresponsible to charge the mayor with concealment, and to rile up residents with an unfounded claim that they’ll be worse off with Republic Services.

The team of receiver William Lynch, for its part, is hopeful the matter will be resolved. “We’d certainly be in favor of anything that’s more inclusive of City Council,” said Cory Angell, a spokesman for the receiver’s office. He acknowledged that the receiver, if need be, could take matters to court, but said that option was “not even being considered right now.”

Lynch’s preference, he said, was to open lines of communication and make sure all parties are comfortable. “Coming to some sort of common ground is more effective,” Angell said. “We’re better off sitting down and talking it out.”

“STICK TO THE PLAN”

Paul Barker on how the Thompson administration launched an update to the city’s Comprehensive Plan without following established procedures.

So whether the comprehensive plan was in the original bid depends on which question you’re asking. If the question is whether the new contract should have been competitively bid, the answer is no: comprehensive planning was part of the original contract. But if the question is whether there needs to be a new, larger contract for planning, the answer is yes: comprehensive planning was not part of the original contract.

All of this muddle should have been avoidable. The planning code outlines a clear process for comprehensive planning—but the city abandoned it and needlessly decided to chart its own irregular course.

Thompson seems to have done this partly because she’d been given Lynch’s nod. A spokesman explained that the receiver reviewed the plan’s scope and budget and gave it his blessing, because a qualified firm “was on-hand to do the work and there was no issue from our standpoint in having them do it.” He also explained that, in the interpretation of Fred Reddig from DCED, a competitive bidding process was not necessarily required for projects of this sort, and that “an internal decision was made” to engage Mullin & Lonergan, based on their knowledge of Harrisburg. (The firm has been consulting the city on various projects since 2001.)

But I think there’s something else that explains the blunder better: a persistent culture of dysfunction in City Hall. There was a way to do this correctly, readily available to the mayor had she wanted to use it. That she didn’t, and that her advisors didn’t point her towards it—and that no one, short of the controller’s office, felt it necessary to halt the process until it was done properly—speaks to an attitude of indifference or, worse, distaste for the actual work of governing.

The citizens of Harrisburg deserve better management. Well, as the other [musician Linda] Thompson had it [in her song]—it “Won’t Be Long Now.”

Christmas with the Celts



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SAT, DEC 28 • 8PM (THE FORUM)

MARC COHN & PAULA COLE



SAT, JAN 11 • 8PM

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- 3RD STREET STUDIO, 1725 N. 3RD ST. 7-9 PM
- ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG, 21 N. FRONT ST. 9:30 AM-9 PM
- FRIENDS OF MIDTOWN FRIENDSOFMIDTOWN.ORG
- LGBT CENTER GALLERY, 1306 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM
- LITTLE AMPS COFFEE ROASTERS, 1836 GREEN ST. 6-9 PM
- THE MAKESPACE. 1916 N. 3RD ST. 6-10 PM
- STASH 234 NORTH ST. 5-9 PM 232-2207
- ST@RTUP, 1519 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM
- YELLOW BIRD CAFE, 1320 N. 3RD ST. 6-9 PM



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- STATE MUSEUM | MIDTOWN SCHOLAR
- 3RD AND WALNUT | 2ND AND WALNUT

**FRIDAY DEC. 20: ART, MUSIC & MORE.
THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH IN HARRISBURG.**



MIDTOWN SCHOLAR BOOKSTORE

1302 N. 3RD ST.
236.1680 | MIDTOWNSCHOLAR.COM
12 pm: Coffee Education
2 pm: Tea Tasting
6 pm: "The Holiday Art Show" in the Yellow Wall Gallery
6pm: The Grab and Go Show at Robinson's Rare Books and Fine Prints, various artists
7pm: Comedy Night
8pm: Holiday Music Concert



WHITAKER CENTER

222 MARKET ST.
214.ARTS | WHITAKERCENTER.ORG
9:30 am-8 pm: Art on the Curved Wall exhibit, "Contemporary Impressionism," a collection of 29 paintings and photography by 15 artists, presented by The Art Association of Harrisburg. Each artist interprets the theme of "Impressionism" in a uniquely individual style.



CITY HOUSE B&B

915 N. FRONT ST.
903.2489 | CITYHOUSEBB.COM
6-9 pm: Vivian Calderon, "Prints from the Earth," consciously fuses abstract expressionism with Columbian-born and educated artist, Vivian Calderon's, academic formation in anthropology, history and journalism. Refreshments will be served.



GALLERY@SECOND

608 N. 2ND ST.
233.2498 | GALLERYATSECOND.COM
6-9 pm: Opening reception for featured artists Jeff Lynch and Gene Suchma. Also visit our Upstairs Gallery featuring more than 250 pieces of artwork by local artists. Music by Jonathan Frazier. 3rd in The Burg special—10% discount on all purchases made during the event. Refreshments served. Visit us on Facebook: GalleryAtSecond.



MANGIA QUI & SUBA

272 NORTH ST.
233.7358 | MANGIAGUI.COM
5-11 pm: Featured artists are Joann Landis and Elide Hower. Also, there is art on the walls, and the green dragon is the special featured cocktail in your hand.



MIDTOWN CINEMA

250 REILY ST.
909-6566 | MIDTOWNCINEMA.COM
9:30 pm A \$3 film screening of Frank Capra's classic holiday film, "It's a Wonderful Life," and an after-party BYOB.



THE STATE MUSEUM

N. 3RD ST. (BETWEEN NORTH AND FORSTER)
787.4980 | STATEMUSEUMPA.ORG
11 am-1:30 pm: Join us for "Learn at Lunchtime" free tour of the "Chairs" exhibit by Museum Director David Dunn at 12 noon on Friday, Dec. 20. Free general museum admission.



HISTORIC HARRISBURG ASSOCIATION

1230 N. 3RD ST.
233.4646 | HISTORICHARRISBURG.COM
6-9 pm: "Local artist's artwork for sale for last minutes holiday shopping."