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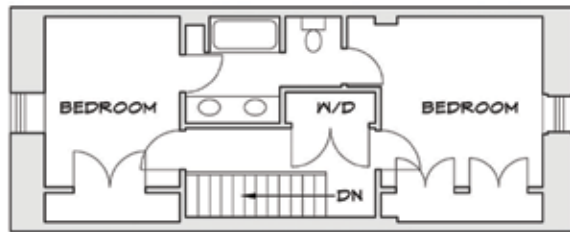
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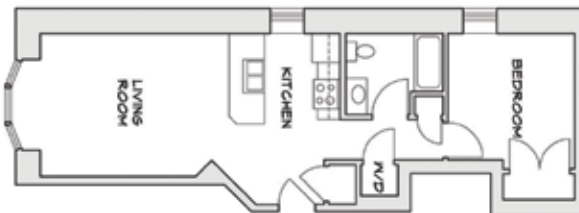
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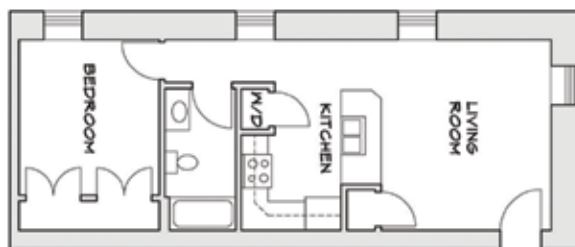
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COVER ART BY: KRISTIN SABADISH

### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Since we began publishing, TheBurg has become known as a writer's newspaper, and our change of ownership has brought us even more great writers.

I find that serendipity plays an enormous role in life, and that's how I met Paul Barker. Paul tapped me on the shoulder at an event at Midtown Scholar and asked if I'd give him a chance. He then transformed a basic assignment into a lovely, lengthy feature on the struggles of African-American churches in Harrisburg.

Reggie Sheffield is another writer new to TheBurg. Reggie was given the difficult task of taking a national trend in policing and making it relevant to Harrisburg. Well, a good writer lets a story go where it wants to go. So, using the issue of crime "hotspots," Reggie tells just how hard it is for this cash-strapped city to sustain a crime-fighting initiative.

Springtime is here, too. So, you'll find stories on small space gardening, romantic springtime dates and, on that first warm day, what could beat a day trip to quaint Newport?

Finally, we have a feature on how Greenbelt Events is faring following the death of its founder. With the first annual Jersey Mike Memorial Rock and Run 5-K this month, the timing seemed perfect.

Of course, even the best words need to be framed just right. So, once again, The 401 Group has adorned our stories with their beautiful designs.

Happy spring, everyone!

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

### GENERAL AND LETTERS

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# FEATURES

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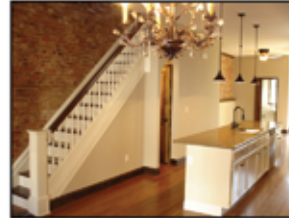
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# A HARRISBURG BRAND

*Learning, innovation essential for a city renaissance*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

Dear Readers:

Many thanks for your overwhelmingly kind response to our March re-launch. We received a great deal of positive feedback, particularly on our new design and logo, as well as the illustrations, artwork and overall look and feel that complement the writing you expect. A special thanks to Jen Zaborney and her team at The 401 Group for their efforts on the first of what is hopefully a long line of new issues. Jen's creative director, Megan Davis, gets credit for not only leading the re-design but also the cover art, which she apparently had sitting in her basement for nearly a decade. Talk about hidden talent!

Larry and I heard from many of you who affirmed my decision to invest in TheBurg and to push forward its existing brand of upbeat, insightful news about our city and community. It is gratifying to know that we are well received and that you share our enthusiasm and interest in telling the real stories of our community.

As we look forward in 2013, the concept of "brand" is a reoccurring theme. As you know, TheBurg itself has set out to develop a brand of engaged community reporting. Hopefully, when you pick up your monthly copy, we will always be able to give you some of what you love, along with some new things you might not have expected but recognize as somehow familiar.

It strikes me that brand is something that we could also work on in the broader Harrisburg community. The story of Harrisburg's population decline, from just shy of 100,000 residents in the 1950s to about half that today, is well known. But, as our colleague and contributor Tara Leo Auchey correctly pointed out in a recent article, that decline has stopped, and a small but noticeable reversal in population has begun. In fact, the national trend toward urban living is now a powerful ally in Harrisburg's attempt at what I believe is a coming renaissance.

Many more folks today, and particularly young people, are willing to consider living in cities. Not all, but more. For reasons of environmental issues, creativity, comfort with diversity, the power of serendipity, overall affordability and even simple fun, cities are more attractive than at any time in the last 100 years. Harrisburg is not immune from this trend and, if positioned correctly, can benefit greatly.

A Harrisburg brand that works would be one in which we focus on becoming a community that learns, innovates and implements good ideas regardless of where we find them. There are simple, straightforward, tried-and-true solutions to urban issues that other cities are using to solve their problems.

For instance, tax abatement for new investment has encouraged enormous positive change since being implemented in the 1980s in New York City and in the 1990s in Philadelphia. In each instance and many others, investment rose, businesses and citizens moved in and the local municipality experienced a dramatic increase in revenue. In New York, strong approaches to crime fighting, such as community policing, "stop and frisk" and targeting "hot spots" have led to dramatic decreases in crime. We should try those approaches here. Many cities have embarked on plans to remake their urban transportation landscapes via the addition of green space, the re-introduction of two-way streets, bike lanes, walking plazas and the like. These efforts have re-connected neighborhoods, increased the beauty and cleanliness of urban streets and made cities more livable. Why wouldn't we at least try all of these in Harrisburg?

TheBurg will publish these stories and similar ones in the coming months and attempt to show how urban success stories from across the nation can be applied here (see articles by Reggie Sheffield on crime and Dan Webster on local "city beautiful" groups this month). We are under no illusion that their implementation will be swift or without controversy. Change is often hard. However, community leaders will respond to active, informed citizens who want to see good policies complement their many good works in their private and professional lives. The trends are in our favor, and the policies are well known. Making your voice heard will speed them on their way to seeing them happen in TheBurg. **B**



## FIRM PLAN FOR SAM

A start date has been set for the Susquehanna Art Museum's new home at the corner of N. 3rd and Calder streets in Midtown Harrisburg.

Work on the site is expected to begin this month, said Laurene Buckley, the museum's executive director. Then, on May 7, SAM will hold a ceremonial groundbreaking starting at 4:30 p.m., followed by a celebratory community party outdoors. Buckley expects the museum to open in October 2014.

The \$7 million project is funded with both public and private money. While SAM has enough money to start the project, it hopes to raise at least another \$1 million to be debt-free, said Buckley.

Two years ago, the museum moved out of its location in the Kunkel building downtown and since has been mounting exhibits in the State Museum.

For more information on the project and to donate, please visit [www.sqart.org](http://www.sqart.org).

## CASA GETS CHARTER

With the 2013-14 school year, the Capital Area School for the Arts will become Harrisburg's newest charter school, as the city school board recently approved its application.

The board voted in favor of the charter after rejecting it the first time. CASA, formed in 2001, is located downtown in Strawberry Square. It serves students in grades 9 to 12 in the areas of visual arts, dance, music, creative writing, theater and film and video.

With charter status, CASA says it will expand its curriculum to include full-day academic and arts study, with a focus on college preparation. It hopes to enroll as many as 200 students.

CASA has entered into an agreement to use the classroom space of Temple University Harrisburg, also located in Strawberry Square, for its academic instruction.

The CASA approval was an anomaly for the board, which has turned down numerous charter school applications over the past few years.

For instance, at the same meeting, the school board rejected the charter application of the STEAM Charter School of Harrisburg, which wanted to move into the old Ron Brown Charter School at the corner of N. 3rd and Boas streets.

For more information on CASA, visit [www.casa-arts.org](http://www.casa-arts.org).





**NEW REHAB AT 3RD & HAMILTON**

A Harrisburg developer and landlord has purchased a long-abandoned building at the corner of N. 3rd and Hamilton streets, intending to turn it into an apartment building.

San-Pef Inc. will develop the historic, Victorian-style building at 1701 N. 3rd St. into four two-bedroom, two one-bedroom and two studio apartments, with commercial space on the ground floor, according to Bryan Davis, executive director of the Harrisburg Redevelopment Authority.

The purchase price was \$83,000. Once begun, the renovation, estimated to cost \$415,000, should take 10 to 12 months, said Davis.

“This is a great example of what we should be using the authority for—for buildings that are very difficult to redevelop,” said Davis.

The building served as an apartment and laundromat for decades before falling into dilapidation. The authority acquired it in 1999, gutted it and stabilized it. It has been on the market since.

San-Pef owns and rents many houses in Harrisburg. In recent years, it also redeveloped two historic buildings that were in disrepair: 1014 N. 3rd St. and 1217 N. Cameron St.

.....

**MAYOR WANTS TO ADJUST STREET NAME**

If Mayor Linda Thompson has her way, the city’s best-known stretch soon will share its name with a giant of the Civil Rights movement.

Thompson has asked City Council to “supplement” the name of N. 2nd Street, from Chestnut to Forster streets, with the name “Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.” In other words, the downtown street would be known by both names.

The council cancelled both its last meeting in February and its first meeting in March. Therefore, at press time, it had not yet acted on the ordinance.



**HARRISBURG RESTAURANT ROUNDUP**

Taco Solo is slated to open this month at 200 N. 2nd St., which most recently housed the short-lived Munchese. The taqueria, a new venture by the owners of El Sol Mexican Restaurant, will be open for lunch and dinner, as well as late night on weekends.

Pastorante, a pasta-themed restaurant, is expected to debut this month at 1012 N. 3rd St., the Midtown location of the former Italian Market, which closed years ago. Owner Sri Kumarasingam said he decided to open the eatery “because everyone loves pasta. I love pasta.” The pasta will be fresh-made each day and served with a variety of sauces.

The Soup Spot closed last month at the corner of N. 3rd and Herr streets. Owners Randy and Melanie Straub started a take-out location about four years ago in a tight space at the corner of N. 3rd and Union streets. They later moved to a larger location up the street that had customer seating.

.....

**CHANGING HANDS: FEBRUARY PROPERTY SALES**

- Capitol St., 909: S. Schreckengast to M. Dietz, \$120,000
- Croyden Rd., 2807: M & T Bank to PA Deals LLC, \$35,000
- Derry St., 1956: W. Vera to Willow LLC, \$39,000
- Market St., 1918: Bank of New York Mellon to J. Matthews, \$40,299
- N. 2nd St., 1613: Members 1st Federal Credit Union to E. & P. Montgomery, \$70,000
- N. 6th St., 3202: PA Deals LLC to M. Strine, \$74,000
- S. 13th St., 346: PA Deals LLC to SMS Solo 401K Trust, \$68,000
- S. 16th St., 13: V. Ledesma to E. Chavez, \$30,000
- S. 25th St., 432: Fannie Mae to P. Bauer, \$70,500
- Swatara St., 1239: D. & F. Realty Holdings LP to W. Pan, \$71,376
- Verbeke St., 114: H. Thorkelson to A. Labs, \$75,000
- Zarker St., 1945: PA Deals LLC to M. Strine, \$52,900

**SCHOOL RECOVERY PLAN DELAYED**

Gene Veno, chief recovery officer for Harrisburg public schools, has been given an additional 45 days to complete his blueprint for the financial and academic recovery of the school district.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Education Ronald J. Tomalis last month granted Veno until April 26 to issue his report. Veno has said he needed the extra time due to the complexity of his mission.

Veno was appointed on Dec. 12. He was instructed to create a recovery plan in 90 days and then oversee the implementation of the plan.

.....



**GLASS FACTORY READY FOR TENANTS**

Put another historic Harrisburg building into the “rehabbed” column, as the Glass Factory is ready to accept tenants.

The Old Uptown building, at the corner of N. 3rd and Muench streets, had sat for years as a deteriorating shell until the renovation by Harrisburg-based Skynet Property Management.

The century-old, 18,000-square-foot building contains 31 units: 19 studio and 12 one-bedroom apartments. Prices start at \$685 per month, which includes parking and most utilities.

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## CANDIDATES FILE PETITIONS

A large number of candidates, both electoral veterans and newbies, last month garnered enough signatures to place their names on the ballot for the May 21 primary election.

As expected, four Democratic candidates will vie for mayor: incumbent Linda Thompson, city Controller Dan Miller, businessman Eric Papenfuse and community activist Lewis Butts Jr. No Republicans filed to run.

On the legislative side, 10 Democratic candidates will battle for four council seats. They are:

- Ben Allatt of the 1700-block of N. 3rd Street
- Ron Chapel of the 700-block of N. 3rd Street
- Shamaine Daniels of the 2000-block of N. 3rd Street
- Robert Drum of the 700-block of Girard Street
- Camille Erice of the unit block of S. 18th Street
- Ellis R. “Rick” Roy of the 600-block of Curtin Street
- Eugenia Smith of the 1200-block of Rolleston Street
- Pat Stringer of the 2100-block of Kensington Street
- Kelly Summerford of the 1900-block of Market Street
- Wanda Williams of the 500-block of Wiconisco Street

Smith, Summerford and Williams are incumbents. An additional seat is open because Councilman Bruce Weber, appointed in December to complete state Rep. Patty Kim’s unfinished council term, is not running for election. No Republicans decided to run.

The office of Harrisburg City Controller has Democrat Charles DeBrunner of the 2300-block of Valley Road running unopposed for the office. The position will be open as current Controller Miller makes a run for mayor. No Republicans are competing.

The race for school board also attracted multiple candidates. Six candidates will run in the Democratic primary for four, four-year slots. They are:

- Lionel Gonzalez of the 1400-block of Fulton Street
- Lola Lawson of the 200-block of Hamilton Street
- Kenneth Mickens of the 300-block of Chestnut Street
- Danielle Robinson of the 2900-block of Heather Place
- James Thompson of the 2300-block of Bellevue Road
- Patricia Whitehead-Myers of the 2600-block of N. 7th Street

Lawson, Mickens, Robinson, Thompson and Whitehead-Myers are incumbents. Thompson also garnered enough signatures to be listed as the sole candidate running on the Republican ballot.

In addition, the school board has three two-year terms available. That race attracted three Democrats:

- Monica Blackston-Bailey of the 1800-block of Holly Street
- LaTasha N. Frye of the 2200-block of Swatara Street
- Adara Jackson of the 1800-block of Mulberry Street

Incumbent Brendan Murray had filed a petition to defend his seat, but a paperwork error forced him to withdraw from the race. No Republicans are running.

There are also a couple of Dauphin County offices on the ballot.

For prothonotary, incumbent Stephen Farina will run unopposed on the Republican ballot, while former district Justice Joseph Solomon will run unopposed on the Democratic side. Unchallenged, they will face off against each other in the November general election.

For county coroner, incumbent Graham Hetrick is unopposed on the Republican ballot. No Democrats signed up to run, virtually ensuring Hetrick another term.



## NO GO: HARRISBURG DEFAULTS AGAIN

Harrisburg last month defaulted on its general obligation (GO) bonds, the third time in a row it has skipped payments.

City receiver William Lynch ordered the city not to make scheduled payments on two series of bonds and notes, both insured by Ambac Assurance Corp. The payments missed include \$2.7 million on the series D bond of 1997 and \$2.5 million on the series F bond of 1997.

“The decision to withhold payment was made to maintain sufficient cash-flow to provide vital and necessary services,” stated Lynch’s office.

In March 2012, former receiver David Unkovic instructed the city to skip \$5.3 million in GO payments and, last September, Lynch told the city not to make scheduled payments of \$3.9 million.

GO bonds were issued to fund certain city operations. They’re separate from bonds taken out by the Harrisburg Authority to fund a retrofit of its long-troubled incinerator. The city backed those bonds, but has not made payments on them in years. It now owes some \$350 million in accumulated principle and interest on the incinerator debt.




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# HOW STRANGE

*Is insolvent Harrisburg about to start lending money to private businesses? Yes, it is.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

Over the years, I've sat through innumerable City Council meetings and watched many ordinances and resolutions get passed—some smart, some not-so.

Smart: Insisting that the Harrisburg Authority have competent, independent people on its board and as its executive director.

Not-So: Hiring attorney Mark Schwartz in about 10 minutes, without several council members ever even hearing of the man before that night.

However, I don't think I've been so troubled as I was during one recent meeting, when the council, unanimously, confirmed three mayoral appointments to the Harrisburg Economic Development Loan Committee, thereby getting Harrisburg back into the banking business.

Yes, this city, some \$350 million in the hole for its troubled incinerator, under state receivership and in default on its general obligation bonds—constantly on the brink of not making payroll and not being able to pay vendors—has decided to start lending money to other people.

How did we drop down this rabbit hole?

Last year, Harrisburg sold the historic McFarland Press Building at the foot of Allison Hill to an out-of-area investment group calling itself McFarland LP. The Thompson administration then earmarked the windfall for a number of projects, including reviving the Economic Development Loan fund.

Therefore, city businesses now can apply to the newly appointed committee for a chunk of money from an infusion of \$163,735.

Mayor Thompson and several council members have assured me that their program will not meet the same fate as the notorious revolving loan fund run by former Mayor Steve Reed, who doled out millions of dollars in loans

to city businesses, many of which never paid them back. There will be checks and balances and oversight and responsible decision-making over who gets loans and for how much, they've told me.

Unfortunately, I'm sure that, given enough time, this program also will become troubled. Politicians simply cannot resist playing with all the toys in their toy boxes. Right now, however, that is not my greatest concern.

The greatest concern is this: the City of Harrisburg should NOT be acting as a bank. Period.

Harrisburg is a city government, not a bank. It is supposed to police streets, collect trash, fight fires and maintain infrastructure, jobs already often beyond its stretched resources. Does Harrisburg have the ability to expand its reach of services to include lending money to restaurants, coffee houses and shoe stores? No, it does not.

I don't question that the new appointees to the Economic Development Loan

Committee will do the best they can. But how can a handful of part-time volunteers perform the due diligence required to lend money? And what will they do when they begin to get pressure from this or that politician to make a loan to a relative, friend or supporter? It will happen.

Then, after loans are made, does the city want to spend its precious time and staff resources servicing loans, chasing down payments and filing court complaints for delinquency? I have no confidence that a city government, which filed its 2009 audit more than two years late because, it said, its finance department was short-staffed, has the capability to do any of this. Banks have entire departments of experienced, full-time people who do nothing all day but

judge, process and service loans. So then why did this program get revived at all?

Unfortunately, the sale of the McFarland building became Christmas morning for the city's politicians. The sudden flush of cash, which totaled about \$1.3 million, was spread around to have maximum political impact during this election year. So, a piece of it went to fund improvements to private homes, another piece to encourage private homeownership and another piece to lend money to private businesses.

I'm not fond of any of these uses, as they all dole out public money to select individuals, not to the community as a whole. When I questioned one city councilman about his "yes" vote for the loan fund committee, he responded that—well, it's only about \$160,000—what else could Harrisburg do with such a limited pot of money when its needs and debt are so great?

Here's what: stripe 2nd and 3rd streets; pave a few roads; beef up the city's depleted planning and codes staffs; re-lay a stretch of the decrepit river walk; fix streetlights and poles. These ideas, which benefit all city residents, not the chosen

few, are far more pressing to public safety and welfare than propping up a handful of failing, unproven or well-connected businesses.

Last year, I wrote that Harrisburg is a city moving in two directions at once, with a failing government but an increasingly dynamic and diverse private sector. Since then, the contrast has only become starker. Government has become only more indebted. Meanwhile, new businesses and the rehabilitation of long-neglected historic buildings are adding vibrancy to city life that Harrisburg has not seen in many decades.

So, to sum it up, the bankrupt public sector now will lend money to the far healthier and more financially stable private sector. How strange. How political. **B**

**“THE CITY OF HARRISBURG  
SHOULD NOT BE  
ACTING AS A  
BANK  
→ PERIOD.”**

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



# HARRISBURG'S SCHOOL DAZE

*As the chief recovery officer prepares his report, he finds he's battling something even worse than massive debt—a disengaged community.*

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

“We can do better, and we will!” That’s what Chief Recovery Officer (CRO) Gene Veno has been saying ever since he was appointed by the state Secretary of Education to oversee the fiscal and academic recovery of the Harrisburg School District (HSD).

Doing better is no easy task.

The district is troubled with a growing structural deficit, an incredible debt load, low tax receipts, decreased enrollment, program cutbacks, furloughs, building closings, reduced financial assistance from state and federal governments and a condemnation of its performance. Based on national standards, HSD continues to be categorized as “low student achievement” and is ranked one of the worst schools in the state.

Its last standardized test results are dispiriting—38 percent of students are below basic in math and 42 percent are below basic in reading. In 2012, only 45 percent of the students in the district graduated.

Indeed, HSD is impoverished in more ways than one, and that fact does not escape Veno or the state.

Ultimately, the CSO is tasked with developing a financial recovery plan that not only addresses the district’s lack of financial stability, but also that suggests changes to the organization and policies of HSD. Per the state law that guides his steps, Act 141, Veno’s recovery plan must include recommendations to get HSD on firm fiscal ground, to enhance the overall efficiency and purpose of the district and to remedy academic practices.

Originally, the plan was due on March 12. However, Veno requested a 45-day extension to complete it. Refusing to call it a delay, Veno stated the extra time was necessary to not only obtain reports and data necessary for analysis, but to develop key components of the plan. “When it’s completed, it will be a high-quality plan for the board and community to review.”

Veno has continually stressed the plan is not just a plan for now or for the next five years, but a plan for the long-term sustainability of the faltering district.

The recovery plan is now due April 26, and, once it is publicly presented, the elected school board will have 30 days to vote on its acceptance. If the plan is approved, the CRO and the district together will begin to put it in place.

If, at any time during the plan’s implementation, the superintendent or the school board does not follow the plan’s recommendations, the Secretary of Education can petition the court for the appointment of a receiver to take over the district’s business management.

A receiver can also be requested should the school board fail to approve the CRO’s recovery plan. Technically, the board has up to one year to give its approval, but, if it takes longer than 30 days, HSD won’t be eligible for any state assistance or loans. This would be a sure death blow.

Public response to the CRO and this state-mandated recovery process has been mixed. Very few citizens have attended the public presentations and even fewer parents at that.

Many of those engaged in and observing this process say that’s precisely the problem—the lack of parental involvement. Where are the parents and how will the CRO and his team address this unfortunate issue? This has been asked more than once during the public meetings.

“We really can’t control the parents, is the reality. We really can’t count on the parents to solve this,” declared former state Secretary of Education



Francis V. Barnes, a member of Veno’s team.

If Barnes’ claim is true, it’s a sad reality for Harrisburg. As the cliché goes, it takes a village to raise a child, yet those individuals who should be the students’ biggest supporters and advocates are typically missing from the equation. Without appropriate support, the sad statistics are unlikely to change.

Of course, this issue isn’t an issue exclusive to the capital city. Urban school districts across the nation face the same challenge of absentee and apathetic parents, indicating that the complications of educating an urban population—a severely indigent one at that—are much more complex than funding, despite the fact that funding becomes the most prominent topic of conversation, especially politically.

At this point in time, the CRO’s approach to that conundrum is to openly discuss and examine what the students’ needs are—from behavioral to specialized academic approaches custom-made for an urban community. During one meeting, Veno said, when talking about HSD’s recovery, “We’re just not talking about what could be cut but what could be added.”

As studies show, early intervention means less remedial education. Thus, the recovery team is analyzing special education, pre-K programs and all-day kindergarten. While hefty price tags come along with these additions, the team is exploring various state funding opportunities and is confident such funding is available.

While some citizens have expressed relief to hear more proactive versus reactive measures are being discussed, a few have expressed skepticism of the data and of the possibility that HSD can be turned around. Still others, like school board President Jennifer Smallwood, say the solution is more money from the state.

Whatever the ideas, beliefs and attitudes, Veno is attempting to locate the points of agreement, the most significant being the students. “This is about the children, and the children make up the community, and the community makes up the mindset.”

No one would seem to disagree with that. After all, it takes a village. **B**

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

*Illustration by Liz Larabee, [www.lizlarabee.com](http://www.lizlarabee.com).*



## FLOODING CRIME

*Some cities have battled crime by targeting hotspots.  
Can financially strapped Harrisburg do the same?*

BY REGGIE SHEFFIELD

**K**athy Jackson grew up on Curtin Street in the 1970s. Life took her to Oklahoma. In 2009 she returned. While the street and most of the houses were still there, her neighborhood was gone. According to Jackson, crack cocaine had taken its place.

“This is very depressing as a resident,” Jackson said after a community meeting in February held Uptown at the Wesley Union AME Church to discuss the city’s application for a \$1 million federal anti-crime and blight grant. “It was a culture shock for me when I came home.”

Crime in Harrisburg has become more than just a worry for city officials or a topic of conversation over Sunday night dinner. In some areas of the city, the sounds of gunshots have become as common and excusable as the sound of an unanswered car alarm. What once made some city residents jump and flinch now produces only resigned, barely audible sighs. “Not again,” is the thought bubble inside shaking, frowning heads.

As of mid-March, this city of about 50,000 had seen its fifth homicide. Harrisburg has little money to spend on public safety thanks to a \$340 million debt on its failed incinerator and a structural deficit estimated at \$10 million per year. During the weekend of Feb. 16 to 17 alone, Harrisburg saw three unrelated homicides. During the weekend of March 9 to 10, South Allison Hill saw a homicide and then a shooting in the same area.

What options do cash-strapped city officials have? Criminologists have long studied what’s known as “hot spot” policing, where available resources are focused on specific high-crime areas. As a result of one of many studies discussed in a recent New York Times article, police and criminologists have credited hot spot policing with reducing crime in New York City by a whopping 75 percent over the past two decades—even with a 15 percent reduction in the city’s police force. But what is not clear to researchers is how this also translated into a one-third drop in the prison population and millions saved annually on prison costs.

Regardless, what is clear jumps out:

“Rates of murder, rape, grand larceny, robbery and assault declined significantly faster in precincts with hot-spot policing than in those without it,” the article said, referring to a study conducted by New York University political scientist Dennis C. Smith.

Recently, Harrisburg Mayor Linda Thompson initiated a “Neighborhood Safe Zones” program where problem blocks are literally cordoned off in an attempt to isolate and eradicate crime. Based on the Baltimore Police Department’s Community Safe

Zone Project that began in 2005, it couples enhanced foot patrols, social service resources, community-based reach-out programs and a multitude of relevant city departments, including Code Enforcement, to represent the city’s latest approach to fighting crime.

Thompson said that the police department did not fare well under either the city’s financial recovery plan (the department has a 2013 budget of almost \$17.1 million) or the prolonged City Council fight over declaring bankruptcy, losing 30 officers in the process. Thompson said that the city should regain 15 cops by July and that several of them are strictly slated for street patrol.

“It gives a sense of security to people. It allows our cops to get out there and build relationships. It allows them to build these relationships so people are willing to be of help to them and give them inside information about a crime and help prevent a crime. I am a staunch proponent of having officers work the street,” Thompson said, adding that the Safe Zones program uses existing policing funds at no additional cost to taxpayers.

In early August, police barricaded Jackson’s Curtin Street after residents complained of constant gunfire. Jackson, daughter of the late Edith I. Jackson, a well-known Uptown community activist who died in 2009, applauds the city’s effort and says that, initially anyhow, the tactic worked very well.

“Absolutely,” she said enthusiastically. “What it did was it flushed them out and made them more visible.”

But then the barricades came down, and the police presence faded.

“No, it doesn’t matter how many police you put in there. It’s not going to help,” Jackson said. “They’re just going to go from one neighborhood to the next. It’s not going to solve the problem.” Jackson said she would welcome additional attention paid to issues such as education, employment and mental health.

Harrisburg police recently opened two community policing centers, one in Hall Manor in Allison Hill and another on S. 15th Street, in its ongoing attempt to make the department even more visible and more accessible.

Keeping enough cops on the job is difficult, said Harrisburg Police Chief Pierre Ritter. The department is now down to about 144 officers, he explained, a decline from around 180 just a couple of years ago.

Drops in personnel have resulted in a conundrum, Ritter said. The city would like to apply for grants to hire more officers, but those grants require basic staffing level requirements that are much higher—in one instance around 250—than the numbers Harrisburg currently has. Many police forces

nationwide are in the same boat, Ritter said.

“So you can say, ‘We want to hire X amount of officers on a grant, but you have to maintain the number of officers you have here in order to pay for those officers that are being supplemented by the grant.’ It’s not as easy as ‘Yeah, let’s get some grant money and hire 10 officers’ and then we’re good to go,” Ritter said.

Last August, a coalition of municipalities, including the state police, joined city cops in patrolling crime hot spots. Going forward, however, Harrisburg may have more trouble getting the state police to boost its depleted force. In February, State Police Commissioner Frank Noonan told the state House Appropriations Committee that his resources were stretched thin due to expanding obligations in the state’s rural areas.

A 2011 study by University of Wisconsin professor Steven N. Durlauf and Carnegie Mellon professor Daniel Nagin concluded that increased police street presence is a more effective deterrent on crime than longer prison sentences. Durlauf and Nagin went on to suggest that, like the results found in the New York study, police on the street reduce crime and the number of prisoners taxpayers must provide for. In turn, that should free up money to fund more police patrols.

More locally, The Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment, a Temple University study done on hot spot policing in collaboration with the Philadelphia Police Department, showed initial reductions in criminal activity (referred to as “displacement”), but an eventual return of crime after the close of the experiment—that is, the departure of the patrols.

“The displacement uncovered had decayed during the three months after the experiment, and it is theoretically plausible that previously displaced offenders returned to the original target areas causing inverse displacement,” researchers found.

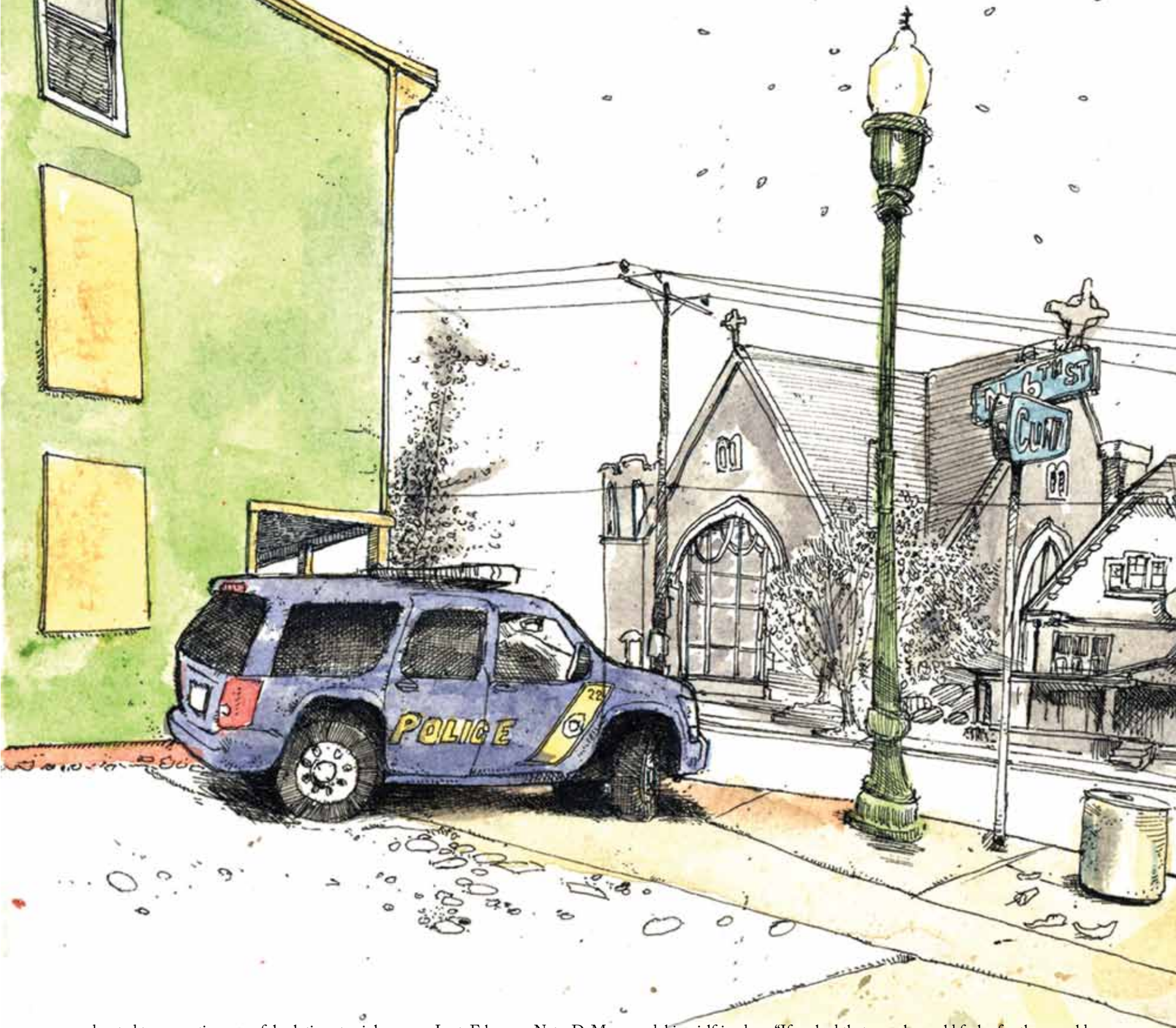
Foot patrols are best used as part of “a variety of policing paradigms” researchers said, and they suggested ways to incorporate them beyond strictly law enforcement-based strategies.

But researchers warned that these statistics came with a caveat: stop and frisk incidents (identified in the paper as “pedestrian field interviews”) increased by “about 64 percent.”

“While this extra activity likely aided deterrence, police commanders should be conscious of the potential harm to police-community relations in targeted areas, and consider other tactics if this is a concern,” they said.

Ron Tilley is the program director of the Brethren Community Ministries, a Hummel Street ministry





devoted to promoting peaceful solutions to violence. In 2009, Tilley helped bring Fugitive Safe Surrender to Harrisburg. In four short days, 1,200 fugitives surrendered, clearing 5,700 warrants. A similar program in St. Louis took a staggering 1,300 guns off the street between 1994 and 1997.

“This could be a peaceful way to take guns off the streets and out of the hands of juveniles,” Tilley said.

Tilley wears another hat as the organizer for Heeding God’s Call Harrisburg, a coalition of congregations from numerous faith backgrounds dedicated to saving lives by ending gun violence in Harrisburg. Heeding God’s Call far too frequently holds vigils for victims of gun violence.

“There’s a lot of suffering, both sets of families, perpetrators and victims,” he said.

Last February, Nate DeMuro and his girlfriend were mugged in Uptown. Robbed on the street at gunpoint at around 9:30 on a Thursday night. No one was injured, he said.

“For lack of a better description, it was a rather polite robbery,” he said.

The assailant took their phones and his girlfriend’s purse for its cash and then split. After a minute or two, the pair followed his path looking for their phones. Within half a block, a police officer coincidentally drove by. “Unfortunately he got away.”

That wasn’t DeMuro’s only brush with crime. He said he also broke up the mugging of a woman. He generally gives the Harrisburg police high marks but still wants to see the city conduct more routine foot patrols.

“If we had that, people would feel safer, they would come out,” DeMuro said.

He credits police with taking the time to get to know local residents, but is under the impression that there just aren’t enough police to get the job done.

What would DeMuro do if he were chief of police? “If I was him, I’d probably be out in the neighborhoods more. You got to get to know these people. You want to know the little old lady that lives there in that little house. The town is just too small. Everybody knows everybody one way or the other,” he said. **E**

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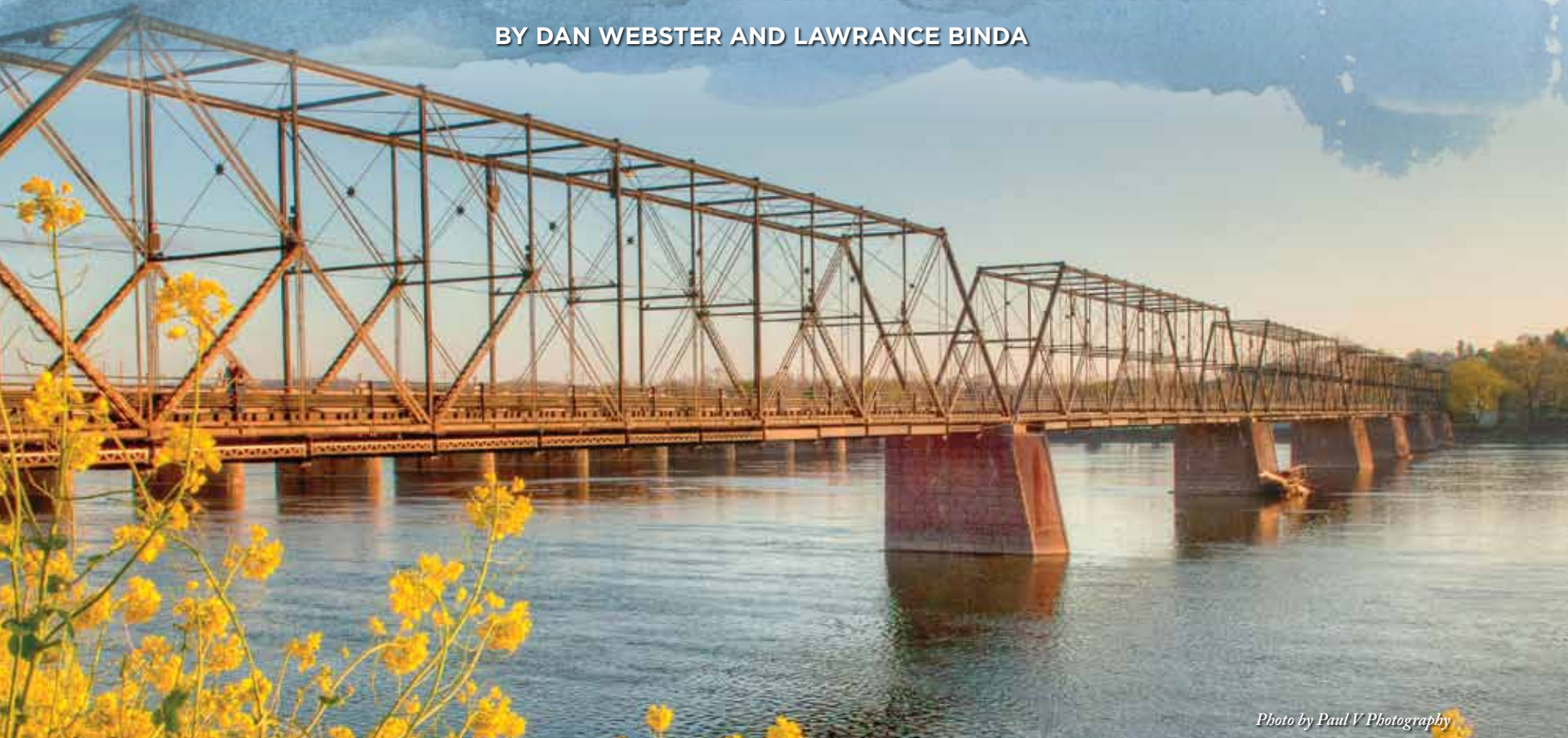
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# CITY BEAUTIFUL RE-BOOT

CONCERNED RESIDENTS ARE TRYING TO REVIVE THE MOVEMENT  
THAT TRANSFORMED HARRISBURG. CAN THEY SUCCEED?

BY DAN WEBSTER AND LAWRENCE BINDA



*Photo by Paul V Photography*

Last January, a large group of residents gathered in the ballroom of the Harrisburg Civic Club, the stately, Tudor-style mansion nestled within Riverfront Park.

The hundred or so people hailed from a cross-section of the city: politicians, historic preservationists, developers, environmentalists, along with a smattering of concerned citizens.

They were called together on that blustery mid-winter night to consider a grand proposal, one that, if successful, might play a vital role in reviving a city plagued for so long by neglect, misplaced priorities, under-investment, malfeasance and just plain bad luck.

They called their movement City Beautiful 2.0, recalling the original City Beautiful movement of more than a century ago. That ambitious project turned Harrisburg from a filthy, unplanned backwater into a modern city with clean water, a functioning sewage system, paved roads and beautiful parks.

But that was then.

Today, century-old pipes rot beneath the pavement. Sinkholes are swallowing streets. Reservoir Park, Riverfront Park and Italian Lake are all desperately in need of basic maintenance and repair. The graceful river walk, which magnificently combined flood control and beauty, is being reclaimed by the Susquehanna.

Given its financial crisis, can Harrisburg restore this legacy our forebears

graciously left us, much less address the new challenges of the 21st century? And, if so, can these well-intentioned citizens really do enough to make a difference?

## A MOVEMENT RE-LAUNCHED

It was entirely appropriate that the first meeting of City Beautiful 2.0 was held in one of the few buildings in the city that remains standing on the west side of Front Street.

Before the original City Beautiful movement, which began in 1900, Riverfront Park was incomplete. It was pockmarked with houses, shacks, docks, boat liveries, coal dredging and logging outfits and filthy, waste-strewn mud, all descending into a river choked with industrial and human waste. One of the top priorities of City Beautiful was to clean up the park and the river, providing an uninterrupted stretch of green and walkways from Shipoke to the city line.

City Beautiful leaders Mira Lloyd Dock and J. Horace McFarland, along with the young reformist mayor Vance McCormick, led a team of vast ambitions. In a short period of time, alliances were formed, arms twisted, funds raised and a large municipal bond floated.

Over the ensuing years, a complex, multi-faceted plan was launched and largely realized. Work began quickly, but it took more than two decades before





the final pieces of the project, such as the creation of manicured Sunken Gardens, were in place. At the end, Harrisburg was transformed, a little jewel of a city with what seemed like a boundless future.

The group that met in the Civic Club last January, and again in February at HACC Midtown 2, frequently recalled that glorious past in a hope to restore and build upon it.

Facilitated by John Campbell, executive director of the Historic Harrisburg Association, and Jeb Stuart, the project consultant, the speeches, slide show and visioning sessions were small steps forward into awakening a conceptual outlook for conservation and sustainability projects within the city.

Campbell believes that this group serves a number of purposes, the first as a clearinghouse of sorts. In the future, project leaders will be able to go to the City Beautiful 2.0 website and identify similar initiatives others are working on to prevent redundancy and promote collaboration, he said.

Another noble goal: “to make sure this group is reflective of the city” through geographical, socioeconomic, race and gender lines. “Our next hurdle is making sure everyone is at the table, and we know that it won’t be a successful movement” without that type of participation, said Campbell.

Then there’s Stuart’s project, which is to begin the application process so the park system in Harrisburg can receive historical recognition on a national and statewide scale. The hope here is to allow places like Riverfront and Reservoir parks and Wildwood and Italian lakes to receive funding, activating “the religion of the movement; understanding what the City Beautiful movement was and how Harrisburg was the catalyst for a national City Beautiful movement,” said Campbell.

Erica Bryce, owner of City House Bed & Breakfast located along N. Front Street, attended the meeting and believes, “Cities, in general, need to be clean, green and safe. I think we [citizens] can tackle the clean and green here” and “clearly someone needs to step up.”

No doubt, but Harrisburg’s needs may be too great for even the most dedicated volunteers. Perhaps the greatest obstacle is this: the city’s financial crisis has made the local government almost a non-actor in this project, a vast difference from the original City Beautiful effort.

As city Councilman Bruce Weber told the 2.0 attendees, monies for parks have been slashed, and the funds that are available have gone to recreational programs. In addition, the Public Works Department now is charged with the maintenance of city parks, which has never been its primary responsibility. Worse yet, the city, in default on both its incinerator and general obligation bonds, has been cut off from the financial markets.

That’s the bad news. The good is that there already are numerous groups that have taken up the burden of trying to make Harrisburg a better, cleaner place. Perhaps City Beautiful 2.0 can learn from and build upon the efforts of these groups, which have accomplished much with little local government involvement.

## WHAT WORKS NOW

Indeed, civic groups abound in Harrisburg that have committees or missions dedicated to environmental stewardship.

Chris Fegley, Community Action Commission’s (CAC) Neighborhood Revitalization Manager, has been on a vocational and civic mission in South

Allison Hill. As part of CAC’s five-year strategic plan, he is required to interview residents regarding the state of their neighborhoods. The biggest concern he found was trash and the deteriorating condition of homes.

“As of Jan. 1, we’ve collected over 15 tons of trash” with collaboration from the State Probationary Office, Messiah College and Habitat for Humanity,” he said. “We’re financed through public-private grants received through Wells Fargo and DCED (state Department of Community and Economic Development), so as to not take any money away from the local tax base.”

Harrisburg Young Professionals (HYP) has had long-standing commitments to conservation projects. Since 1998, HYP has maintained the Forster Street median in alliance with PENNDOT and the Department of General Services, ensuring that best practices went into the construction and planting processes.

Catherine Hoover, vice president of HYP’s Beautification Committee, said that the project is “integral to the history” of the organization. HYP, she said, has continued to make strides in this area, particularly in the new median installation along State Street, which includes native, low-maintenance plants, bringing a much needed face-lift to the landscape leading up to the entrance of the Capitol building.

Many more noteworthy landscaping and beautification projects exist around the Capital region: Rotary Club of Harrisburg’s planting of 100 trees along the river front about two years ago; Green Urban Initiative’s aggressive expansion of community garden plots in the Midtown and Uptown neighborhoods; and the Joshua Farm, Harrisburg’s only urban farm, which is planted on Edison Elementary School’s former athletic field.

Each of these projects highlights the due diligence and hard work necessary to improve even a slice of Harrisburg’s landscape. Without exception, all have cultivated community partners to ensure procedural liability, build capacity and improve funding opportunities. In addition, they all sourced funding in creative ways through foundations, private corporations and public grants. Lastly, they’ve all either required or will require vast short- and long-term volunteer sweat equity to re-plant, maintain and improve upon their plots and pick-ups.

Take Joshua Farm. Started in 2005, founder Kirsten Reinford received approval from the school district to lease the S. 18th Street lot. Early funding came from a number of foundations: M&T Bank, Lowe’s and the Joshua Group, the umbrella organization the farm sits under. Reinford works with colleges, Boy Scout troops, local high schools, church groups and others to assist in overall maintenance. She also understands that sustainability projects require progress, and expansion outside the fenced walls of Joshua Farm occurred for the first time just three years ago on an Elmerton Avenue plot granted to the farm by the Department of Agriculture. On a personal level, she is deeply committed, with the vision and the mettle to see this important project thrive through collaboration, sustainable funding and labor sources, both paid and unpaid.

These are a few takeaways that City Beautiful 2.0 will need to incorporate into its framework to fulfill its vision. Whether or not the group has the will or persuasion to bring the leaders of the aforementioned projects to the table—to consult, recount their narratives and add substance—will be a colossal task, one that Campbell recognizes.

“I think if we [City Beautiful 2.0] achieve nothing else in the next five years but to bring everyone to the table and break down the barriers of everything that exists, I think we’ve achieved something great...the dialogue that hasn’t happened on a centralized scale that needs to happen,” he said.

In a speech entitled “The Great Civic Awakening,” City Beautiful organizer J. Horace MacFarland said “that self-respect comes to a community when it has roused to a sense of its civic sins and has methodistically shown by repentance a desire for regeneration.”

In another time, this spiritual call to renewal was what Harrisburg needed. Today, we may need something more—things like collaboration between groups, an examination of what has worked and creative ways of raising funds. To be even somewhat successful, City Beautiful 2.0 will need an integration of wisdom, savvy and sustained dedication. Perhaps then this fledgling movement, born of idealistic vision and practical need, can gain true momentum. **B**

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*Next article in this series: What can City Beautiful 2.0 learn from other town/city greening initiatives?*





# Springtime is for Lovers

*There's no need to search far for the perfect romantic weekend.*

BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK

Who says a romantic getaway has to be far away? Between fine dining and a cozy place to stay, Harrisburg can kindle romance this spring, the season when a person's fancy turns to love.

In fact, with the weather beginning to warm, it's a perfect time to celebrate your love not just for 24 hours but also for a long weekend.

Where to stay? The capital city has hotels and motels, but what could be more romantic than a bed and breakfast, near tourist attractions and the Susquehanna?

"We get out-of-towners but also locals," says Erica Bryce, proprietor of City House Bed & Breakfast on Front Street.

Norah and Jeff Johnson, who live within short walking distance of the bed and breakfast, are among them.

"We both have very busy schedules, and this offers us a little respite, when we can't physically go away," said Norah. "It has a nice, relaxing feel."

The couple also appreciates the little touches, like big showers and cable TV. Built in 1925, City House has Spanish-style architecture. Additions in 2010 have turned it into a blend of old-world charm and modern amenities, including gated parking and keyless entry.

The bed and breakfast offers a private bath in every room, and three of its four rooms have fireplaces with candles. You can watch on-demand movies





*So where should you start for a romantic weekend in Harrisburg? Try these places mentioned in our story.*

*CHAR'S AT TRACY MANSION,  
1829 N. Front Street / 717. 213.4002  
[www.charsrestaurant.com](http://www.charsrestaurant.com)*

*CITY HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST  
915 N. Front Street / 717. 903.2489  
[www.cityhousebb.com](http://www.cityhousebb.com)*

*HOME 231  
231 North Street / 717. 232.4663  
[www.home231.com](http://www.home231.com)*

*MANGIA QUI  
272 North Street / 717.233.7358  
[www.mangiaqui.com](http://www.mangiaqui.com)*

*Photo taken at Verbeke and Penn Streets, Harrisburg.*

on 40-inch flat-screen TVs or play music from your iPod or iPad on an iHome. Each room has its own distinct view of the river—direct, or not quite.

After checking in, start the weekend “officially” with cocktails and dinner nearby at Home 231, a comfortable, yet stylish restaurant with an American home-style cuisine.

As the weather warms up, you’ll be able to enjoy the outside patio, booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

You can follow dinner with a moonlit (hopefully) stroll along the river or past the magnificent state Capitol. Or maybe take a horse-drawn ride, courtesy of Harrisburg Carriage Company on City Island.

Sleep in, then partake of the fresh-baked cookies and coffee served right outside your room at the bed and breakfast.

Wide awake? Eat lunch (or Sunday brunch) at Mangia Qui, a restaurant that takes you on a culinary trip to Sicily, Piedmont, Trentino and Campania.

“If you’ve never traveled to Italy, our food is as authentic as it gets, true to the region it came from,” said Staci Basore, owner and partner.

Even with its Italian flavor, Mangia Qui buys fresh, locally grown, farm-raised produce and meats whenever possible. Fresh fish is selected daily. The restaurant also emphasizes environmental concerns.

Basore describes Mangia Qui as “very warm, cozy, small and intimate.” For those who prefer a livelier environment, there’s Suba upstairs, with its casual

lounge atmosphere and specialty of Spanish tapas. No reservations are required at Suba.

For an enchanted Saturday evening, sample dinner at the brand-new Char’s Tracy Mansion. Veteran restaurateur Char Magaro opened the elegant, classic French cuisine eatery in October in the historic residence, which dates back to 1913 and went through several transformations before she bought it.

“We like to think patrons feel somewhere special, with ambiance that is rich, warm and inviting,” she said.

Char’s offers, in the owner’s words, “several opportunities to experience food and beverage.” You can start with drinks, served daily beginning at 4 p.m. in the Lounge/Library, which has the warmth and charm of a family den.

The establishment encompasses a long bar, the Gallery—for private events—and an intimate corner with a high top and two stools that you might prefer for an evening focused on romance.

Then there’s the elegant dining room, with a beautiful view of the river all along one wall, particularly breathtaking during a midday Sunday brunch. Throughout, glass sculptures by Magaro’s daughter, Ona, lend a special feel.

Don’t wait too long before celebrating the arrival of spring, the most romantic of seasons, as the heat of summer is not far away. Fortunately, some of your best options are close to home. **B**

# [RELIGIOUS RESTORATION]

*Harrisburg's historic black churches face untold challenges.  
Among them: preservation of their beautiful, aging buildings.*

*By Paul Barker*



*[Rev. Van Scott]*



*[Jim Buchmoyer]*



*[Bishop Roberta Thomas]*

Last June, the Rev. Van Scott took over as pastor at Harris AME, a handsome, Tudor-style church on N. 17th Street, just east of the Harrisburg Cemetery.

The building is Harris' only asset, and its income depends almost entirely on weekly collections. With its dwindling congregation—three-fourths had followed the departing pastor, leaving Scott with about 20—Harris soon struggled to pay the mortgage. When winter arrived, parishioners couldn't afford to heat the sanctuary, so services were moved to a smaller room in the basement. When heating even this room proved too expensive, they retreated into the kitchen.

"And now, you want to see our heat?" Scott asked me on a windy day in February, in a cramped room stuffed with chairs, a makeshift altar and a commercial refrigerator. He turned on three ranges on the kitchen's gas stove, which sputtered to life with blue flames.

Scott wore a cowboy hat, a black leather jacket and jeans. At his previous assignment, in Roanoke, Va., he became known as the "Walking Pastor with the Cowboy Hat," for his frequent walks in the neighborhood. He has a warm, cheerful manner and speaks with a pastor's preference for parables, especially for ones invoking animal behavior. In our conversation, he cited the habits of bears, stallions, lions, elephants and bulls.

"I knew it was going to be rough," Scott said, "but this is worse than I anticipated. I didn't expect the weather to become a factor in how I ran my church."

Scott perceives needs in the community, where poverty, crime and drug abuse afflict many residents, but his primary concern is simply keeping the church's doors open. He can't afford to address structural problems—among them a leaking roof,

poor insulation and an antiquated boiler—and he often forgoes his monthly salary.

Fortunately, there is a glimmer of hope that the church might be able to pay for renovations. In October, Scott and the pastors of seven other churches attended the first of several training sessions on conducting a capital campaign. The session was led by Partners for Sacred Places, a Philadelphia-based outfit that has helped churches nationwide secure much-needed funds. It does so by teaching them to leverage an asset that many Harrisburg churches share: their historically significant buildings.

## [A MEANINGFUL PURPOSE]

If there's one person who deserves credit for this program, it's Jean Cutler, director at the state Bureau of Historic Preservation. Cutler, a proud Harrisburg resident, speaks about the city's buildings almost as if she's describing a treasure trove. Churches, she said, are a natural focus, because they tend to be the primary landmarks of their neighborhoods.

"When you look at N. 6th Street, what stands out? It's Camp Curtin," she said, referring to the Methodist church that dominates the block north of Woodbine.

In 2008, Cutler applied for a Preserve America grant, which, with matching funds from the Pennsylvania legislature and other sources, provided her department with a pool of nearly half-a-million dollars for projects related to African-American history. Much of the money was distributed in statewide sub-grants, but, in late 2012, with the grant expiring, Cutler still had about \$43,000 left. She decided to use the money on a long-time dream—a series of training sessions to bring

together Harrisburg's African-American churches and promote their preservation.

Typically, to secure grant money for historic preservation, a church has to meet several criteria. First, its building must be on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that requires, among other things, that it be at least 50 years old and have a historically significant association, either with a person, a period in architecture or an event. It also helps if the church serves a meaningful purpose, which usually means outreach in the local community.

Based on these criteria, numerous churches in Harrisburg qualify. But, as Cutler explained, there are varying degrees of awareness among congregations of their churches' significance and history. One purpose of the training is to help churches recognize their roles in their neighborhoods.

Cutler is spirited and optimistic. At the training session I attended, she stuck out as the blonde woman in a turtleneck and floral vest, reacting with delight as the pastors swapped ideas. She sees the preservation project as a critical component of a citywide revival.

"I'm a true believer in integrated historic preservation," she said. "You can't just fix one building on one block. You also have to help with blight, crime, education, health." But repairing the churches is crucial, because "these buildings anchor a neighborhood."

## [GOD PRESERVED THIS CHURCH]

One such building is Fountain Gate Church, at the corner of Kittatinny and Derry, in Allison Hill.





On a recent Saturday, I went there to meet Jim Buchmoyer, a deacon who serves there three days a week.

Buchmoyer is 6-foot-2, with thinning brown hair, and he walks with a metal cane. In 1989, while working at a limestone quarry in Annville, his legs were caught in a machine for breaking up coal. His right foot was crushed, but he was saved from even worse injury by a new pair of reinforced boots, which jammed the machine. “I said, ‘OK, God, you have my attention. Tell me what to do and I will do it.’”

Buchmoyer introduced me to Fountain Gate’s pastor, Bishop Roberta Thomas, who greeted me in a pink sweatshirt with an image of two snowmen decorating a tree. Thomas’ voice is gentle but commanding, and she frequently invokes the grace of God to explain good things that have befallen her congregation.

In 2011, a severe thunderstorm tore an 80-foot tree from the pavement outside the church, sending it crashing through the roof and windows of Thomas’ office on the third floor.

Buchmoyer and others arrived to find the third floor flooded, with water pouring down the stairs towards the chapel and sanctuary. Despite extensive damage, the water never reached the most vital rooms, stopping a few inches short of the chapel and furnace and about a foot short of the sanctuary.

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**“You can’t just fix one building on one block. You also have to help with blight, crime, education, health.”**

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Less than four years later, nearly everything has been repaired, in part because retailers like Lowe’s have offered steep discounts on materials. Discussing this, Thomas teared up.

“God preserved this church for something. As long as God gives his favor, I’ll stay,” she said.

Allison Hill is one of Harrisburg’s poorest neighborhoods. For many residents, Fountain Gate is an indispensable source of clothing, childcare, medicine and, especially, food. Two to three days a week, the church distributes food out of a room in the basement. Around 75 households from the neighborhood partake, forming a line at 2 p.m. for a handout that doesn’t take place until 4:30. Fountain

Gate also offers a program for seniors, a clothing bank and after-school programs to keep kids off the street.

Yet, when it comes to the question of congregants, the church’s relationship with the neighborhood is more complex. Despite the size of the population it serves—around 300 people attend its annual Thanksgiving dinner and upwards of 400 attend its summer fair—the church has only 50 active congregants and only five or six who live in the immediate neighborhood.

Thomas also expressed concern that an “entitlement mentality” pervades the community. For instance, the church has struggled to keep people in the neighborhood from parking in its private lot. They recently put up metal “No Parking” signs, which someone bent over in protest. This results in a peculiar paradigm, in which the church is supported by a small number of worshippers, mostly from elsewhere, while simultaneously supporting a large number of locals who are spiritually disengaged.

This is not new among churches, of course, and, in a sense, it represents the vision implicit in the Partners for Sacred Spaces training. If Harrisburg’s churches are to survive, they will have to position themselves as more than just places of worship. They will have to make the case that they are some combination of community pillar and historical landmark, and, as such, worthy of outside funds, even as Sunday attendance wanes.

### [TURRETS AND LEAKS]

Camp Curtin, on N. 6th Street, is a perfect example of a church struggling to define its future. The church overlooks a well-kept plaza that commemorates a major Union camp of the Civil War, through which more than 300,000 soldiers passed. Its sanctuary is furnished with beautiful oak pews, on both the floor level and in balconies, and is graced at one end by an intricate web of stained glass, and, at the other, by a massive painting of an angel hovering over a wounded soldier. Yet its architectural troubles are numerous—a survey in December noted disintegrating stone turrets, leaking pipes and roof, and inadequate drainage, among many other problems—and its congregation, as the church secretary grimly put it, “isn’t growing.”

The church’s historian, Lewis Butts, who is also running for mayor, has been dreaming for years of ways in which Camp Curtin can figure as a cornerstone of neighborhood revival. His plans include Camp Curtin street signs on the surrounding blocks, a display of replica flags of Civil War regiments and magnets, T-shirts and buttons to be sold to Civil War buffs. He also hopes to restore

the museum on the church’s second floor, which once housed Civil War artifacts but has been mostly emptied to discourage looting.

Yet for all its history, and despite its location, Camp Curtin has so far raised only \$40,000 out of a target that Butts estimates at around \$2 million. If Camp Curtin is to become a tourist attraction, it will need more than just repairs. Its neighborhood, rife with blighted properties, will need to become more welcoming. The visitor before me, Butts said, was not a tourist but a cop, who was curious about access to the defunct bell tower, which he thought might make a good spot for monitoring crime.

At the core of these churches’ challenges is the familiar catch-22 of urban renewal. To attract residents, a city needs public spaces that are both functional and pleasing; to maintain these spaces, a city needs residents to provide it with revenue. The church preservation project seeks to jump-start a revival by using Harrisburg’s historic buildings to attract federal and local funds. The case for the churches’ historical importance is clear, as is the case for their importance to their communities. What remains to be seen is whether short-term repairs can produce long-term sustainability.

At the remaining training sessions, on April 20 and June 20, the churches will receive pointers on how to fine-tune their campaigns. Some of the money that Cutler has raised will help the congregations print statements about their churches’ history and significance, which they can then distribute to potential donors. But most of what the churches will do in the future lies outside the scope of the training. In their own time, and on their own terms, they will have to ensure that they are vital institutions, deeply engaged with their communities.

Van Scott, for his part, looks forward to the spring, when he can finally take the neighborhood walks that proved so effective in his previous posts. At one church, he had trouble with a yard that his neighbors kept using as a place to dump bottles and cans. He persisted in picking up the trash by himself, until the neighbors eventually caught on and stopped littering.

“People will do it if they see it being done,” Scott said. “The trash in your yard? You don’t need a grant to get it picked up. You don’t need the mayor to come pick it up for you.”

The story reflects the central challenge facing Harrisburg’s churches. Ultimately, a church, like the city, doesn’t depend on God or a training module or a federal grant to make it thrive. It depends on people. **B**

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# DRUMS AND A DREAM

*Fred Griggs has already been to the Grammys—and his music career has just begun.*

BY JEFFREY ALLEN FEDEROWICZ



The program, operated by the Grammy Foundation, was established in 1989 to encourage and reward the nation's best young musicians. This year, students hailed from 15 states; Griggs was the only Pennsylvanian chosen.

Previous participants over the years have included Grammy-nominated singer Brandon Heath, two-time Grammy-nominated pianist Gerald Clayton, New York Philharmonic bassist David Grossman and saxophonist Jonathan Ragonese, a Harrisburg-area native who participated in 2007.

For Griggs and his fellow band mates, the trip to Los Angeles was a hectic and amazing experience. The band had only a couple of days to rehearse before they were scheduled to perform at the University of Southern California. Another gig included a jazz concert at a noted restaurant, followed by a visit to a music mecca—Capital Studios and Mastering in Hollywood, where the band took a spin at making a recording.

And, of course, the group attended the star-studded Grammy Awards show at the Staples Center, where they had the opportunity to rub elbows with the biggest names in the industry.

"It was so cool to attend the Grammys and see all the musicians and the crowds that gathered out front of the Staples Center," Griggs said. "We saw so many major musicians. It was an unreal experience."

The experience and all his success come back to three main factors: the support of family and friends, a commitment to learn and pure talent.

"When Fred first started with me, he was a very talented drummer for his age," said Lancaster-based drum instructor, Paul Gallelo. "Over the past three-and-a-half years, he has become a very talented drummer ... period. His technique and musicality transcend any age or grade-related qualifications."

Griggs noted that his main goal since 10th grade was trying to land a spot in the band, a challenge he met with hours of practicing every day.

"Drumming is my life. That's it. I love this and, now that I have gotten back from the Grammys, I have been busy getting ready to apply for college, where I want to study jazz music and someday teach at a conservatory," said Griggs, the son of Josephine and the late Les Griggs, who bought him his first drum kit in the fourth grade.

Already, Griggs has played at numerous events across the area. He's gigged at Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz concerts and with some of the best names in music, including the acclaimed jazz pianist, Steve Rudolph.

"Fred has an amazing commitment to jazz and its history. For someone his age, Fred is an excellent drummer and can play in many different styles of jazz," said Rudolph.

What the future holds for Fred has yet to be written as he starts the next chapter in his life and heads off to college. One thing is certain: his journey will be one filled with music and jazz.

"For me, jazz is a way to convey any emotions I might have from sadness or joy. I love how the music is always changing, always evolving and never the same," Griggs said. "The improvisational part of jazz and how it is so unexpected is what attracts me and keeps me interested. Music really is my life." **B**

**F**rom the West Shore to the West Coast, drummer Fred Griggs has enthralled and impressed audiences and seasoned musicians with his fiercely passionate way of performing jazz-infused music, with a style many drummers spend a lifetime trying to achieve.

In fact, Griggs, a senior at Carlisle High School, already has found success that most drummers seldom experience, including performing at numerous pre- and post-Grammy Award functions in Los Angeles this past February.

"I'm always thinking about music. When I am at school or at home, everything is about music. I'm not the type to sit around and play video games or watch TV. If I'm not playing the drums, I'm learning about them or thinking about them and ways to become a better musician," Griggs said after he returned home from a jubilant and impressive journey to the West Coast as the only drummer in the national and highly prestigious Grammy Jazz Camp band for 2013.

Selected as one of 32 high school musicians and the only drummer from across the nation, the honor came with a bevy of perks, such as a free trip to Los Angeles in February, where the band spent a week among music superstars, red carpet events and all the glitter and glamour that is Hollywood.

Not bad for a guy yet to turn 18.

"Being part of the band was a huge honor for me and a really cool experience. It was amazing to work with so many talented young musicians from across the country and have the opportunity to perform at the different events," Griggs said. "It was also cool to have the chance to see so many talented musicians and jazz legends and hear them perform. It was truly an experience I will never forget."



# SHAKESPEARE BEHIND BARS

*Penn State's Irene Baird helps Dauphin County inmates find inspiration in the Bard's sonnets.*

BY ANDREW DYRLI HERMELING

A few years ago, Dr. Irene Baird came across the autobiography of an inmate in Philadelphia. His story would become the inspiration for her latest project.

As the days slowly passed while this prisoner was held in isolation, he realized that the small table in his cell was being balanced on a copy of Shakespeare's sonnets. Lonely and bored, he began to page through the well-worn book, he wrote. Gradually, the discarded volume became a gateway for the prisoner. Through Shakespeare's verse, he saw himself transformed.

Baird decided to see what her students would do when presented with Shakespeare's immortal words. Like the man in Philadelphia, her students also called a prison cell home.

As she puts it, "When I spoke to colleagues about my desire to teach Shakespeare to inmates, they laughed. 'It's hard enough teaching college students about Shakespeare! How are you going to get prisoners to read these sonnets?' they would say. But I had faith in my students. I knew what powerful literature could do. Now I get the last laugh."

## HOPE THROUGH LITERATURE

Baird, an adjunct professor of education at Penn State Harrisburg and the director of the Women's Enrichment Center here in the city, began bringing hope through literature to the disenfranchised more than 20 years ago. As a form of educational outreach, she worked with homeless women in conjunction with the Harrisburg YWCA, presenting them with literature as a way to assist them in finding their own stories and the will to change.

In 1994, Baird began doing the same type of work with women at Dauphin County Prison. In 1999, she began working with men, as well.

Despite the change of venue, Baird's approach remained the same. She used literature to help people find a voice and find themselves.

Over the years, Baird has observed patterns among her students. For the women she works with, she found that healing comes by transforming their definitions of relationships and their self-esteem. For the men, the focus was placed on responsibility and respect both for self and for others. But for both men and women, Baird insists that she is but an outside facilitator. The voices and the transformations must come from within the inmates themselves.

"I am not an agent of change. Only those who want to change can," says Baird.

## OPENING DOORS

Baird decided to focus her students' attention on one sonnet in particular, Sonnet 29.

"When, in disgrace with fortune and in men's eyes, I all alone bewep my outcast state," is Shakespeare's dejected opening, a cry borne of loneliness and despair. Yet, by the sonnet's end, Shakespeare proclaims, "That then I scorn to change my state with kings." Even in his darkest moments, Shakespeare would not trade his life for any other.

Her students began to compose their own versions of Sonnet 29. The results reveal the complex humanity of the men and women who have found themselves within Dauphin County's prison community. Their sonnets parallel Shakespeare's, stating that even in a place as hopeless as a prison, the lives they have been given are gifts. Like Shakespeare, Baird's students would not exchange their lives for another.

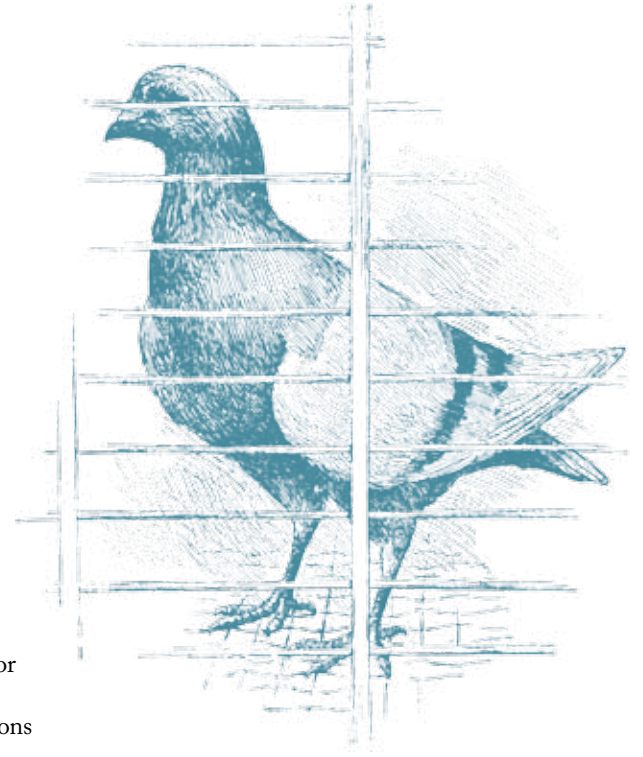
Baird never made any comments concerning form or grammar. Some students chose to write more traditional poems, while others incorporated modern styles and genres such as free verse and hip-hop into their interpretations. Her only goal was to give students another avenue out of voicelessness.

The inmates' sonnets demonstrate what Baird had long suspected.

"I realize that some students I work with will not make the changes they need to make in order to turn their lives around," she said. "But these sonnets show me that many of my students realize that they can be valued in the community if they first value themselves."

Baird's motivation is bolstered by visits from her graduates who have made it outside. Her graduates come to her office to tell her about the jobs they are working. One of her graduates is now working in a law office. She takes heart in the small irony of a former inmate working for the legal system. Her hope is that the words of Shakespeare and other literary greats played a part in that.

The desire to be responsible and to start again; the regret of letting down family and friends; and the knowledge that there is more to life than prison walls—these themes all burst from the words of Baird's students. Furthermore, her students express a desire to be a part of the community that they have offended, to do right by Harrisburg. And their words remind us that our community includes Dauphin County Prison as much as the neighborhoods where we live. They remind us that we are all in this together. **B**



## LEARNING TO SOAR SONNET 29

*Same as the pigeon cooing  
in the morning*

*Displeased with life—wings  
flapping tirelessly—soaring*

*So high into clouds—no one  
can touch him*

*Fly so close to heaven—so  
no one can touch him.*

*At times I wish I was in his place  
I'll also fly high, maybe higher—  
no one will see my face*

*To be free like him, as only  
his friends are*

*I'll look at the earth as I fly afar.*

*I used to laugh, have fun, and  
always smile.*

*Only if I were that pigeon—  
I'll fly mile after mile.*

*Some people might not  
understand—but I can relate*

*If I had the power & wisdom—  
I'll change this fate*

*To start over days the break  
of day arising*

*When will you fly next there's  
no surprising.*

—Anonymous





# TRASH TALK

*With a little personal responsibility,  
we can have a clean city.*

BY SANDRA REID

**W**hen I started on City Council a year ago, I was the only newly elected member. We were millions of dollars in debt and under state receivership, and the city was wrapped in litigation. Crime rates were steadily rising, and the trash on the streets was like a metaphor for a city that had lost all hope.

I was happy to be appointed the chairperson of public works because this gave me an opportunity to focus on something that had been on my radar long before I ran for office. Several years ago, I had a neighbor tell me that, “If I wanted to live in a clean neighborhood, I should move to the suburbs.” It was that statement that drives me and makes me want to do everything I can do to improve the quality of life for our residents.

As I worked for the past year, I began to learn everything I could about trash collection, enforcement, underlying problems and how it had gotten so out of control. At every level of government, I was told that I would not be able to get the trash picked up until I changed the mindset of the residents, so I started there. I hosted a town hall meeting on trash and drove around and wrote up codes and trash violations, peeling back the layers of the onion until I came up with a solution.

I broke the problem down to three main categories: personal responsibility, slum landlords and outsiders using our city as their personal dump.

I believe that personal responsibility is the first step in resolving the larger problems. I truly believe that, if your neighborhood does not look like a dump, the slum landlords and illegal dumpers won't dump there. I came up with four simple steps to a better neighborhood to give residents a set of tools. If everyone did their part, our neighborhoods would begin to look less like a war zone and someplace we want to live in.

**1. Trash cans and recycling bins: Know when to put them out, know when to take them in.**

Trash bags must be placed in trashcans for obvious reasons. It keeps rodents and other animals out of the trash, and the bags won't tear and make a big mess when sanitation comes to collect. They should be put out the night before collection and secured back in your yard after collection. Do not leave them in the alley or on the sidewalks or outside your fence. Also, please remember—recycling reduces the amount of trash that is burned and placed in our landfills.

**2. Personal property maintenance: Sweep when we sweep.**

You should follow the city's lead. When we sweep the streets twice a month, you should also sweep around your entire property—from the front curb to the rear curb at the alley and everything in between, including your porches and steps. Remember that when the city sweeps, you sweep.

**3. Neighborhood cleanup: Together we can make a difference.**

Neighborhood cleanups build relationships between neighbors and allow for churches and other organizations to support the community. Most importantly, it gives you and your children a vested interest in the cleanliness of your neighborhood. If the residents don't take ownership of the trash in their neighborhoods, volunteers can clean it up, but it won't stay clean. Remember: our goal is not just to clean up but permanently change the way our neighborhoods look.

**4. Don't illegal dump: If you see it, say it.**

Not all illegal dumping is done in dark alleys in the middle of the night. You know that, when you see your neighbor put out that couch or mattress, it is illegal. It's not tattling. You live here, and that mattress or couch is not biodegradable. We all have to do our part. In addition, don't let landlords empty trash on the sidewalks when they evict their tenants. Reporting illegal dumping helps the police track down the offenders.

These four steps will help get us started, but I believe that, in order to get the city clean, we are going to need help from everyone. This is why I have established the “I believe we can keep Harrisburg clean fund.”

The concept is neighbors helping neighbors. There are two ways to donate. You can drop off trash bags, trashcans, rakes, brooms and gloves to help our residents get their neighborhoods clean. If residents and organizations do not want to go out and purchase these items, they can make a monetary donation to the fund. We then will purchase them for residents.

We are the capital of Pennsylvania, and we are more than the sum of the trash on our streets. I believe that we are our brother's keeper, and we are only as strong as our weakest link. If we don't work together, we may never solve this problem. **E**

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*To contribute to the fund, equipment donations can be made at the Harrisburg City Government Center, City Council office. Monetary donations should be addressed to the Harrisburg City Treasurer, with the “I believe we can keep Harrisburg clean fund” in the memo section. The City Government Center is located at 10 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg Pa. 17101.*

*Sandra Reid is a member of the Harrisburg City Council and chair of the council's Public Works Committee.*

*Photograph taken at S. 17th and Hanover Rd., Harrisburg*



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Photo courtesy of: Pennsylvania State Archives

## MAGNIFICENCE, IN A BRIDGE

*Soldiers' and Sailors' Bridge: an inspiring entry to the Capitol.*

BY JASON WILSON

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Bridge is a magnificent engineering achievement, an inspiring piece of Art Deco architecture—and a well-traveled and functioning thoroughfare.

It was originally conceived in 1919 as a tribute to Pennsylvanians who fought in World War I. By the time it was dedicated on Aug. 22, 1930, almost \$4 million was provided to construct a memorial to all Pennsylvania veterans.

The bridge, commonly called the “State Street” bridge, was proposed by architect Arnold Brunner as part of the overall Capitol complex. It was designed and executed by architects Gehron and Ross and built by general contractors Charles Strayer of Harrisburg and the James McGraw Co. of Philadelphia.

The grand bridge is long and wide. It measures 2,657-feet, 6-inches long and originally carried a roadway 56-feet wide with 12-foot sidewalks, giving it a total width of approximately 81 feet. In the 1950s, the road was widened, and the sidewalks narrowed, changing the original dimensions.

The bridge contains 17 segmented arches, is made of reinforced concrete and is faced in Indiana limestone. The memorial at the western approach contains



two monumental stone pylons each 145-feet high and 16-by-25 feet at the base.

The pylons are topped by two massive Art Deco-style eagles representing the Union, one symbolic of the Army and the other of the Navy. The pylons and other sculpture, including bas relief tanks, cannon, battleships and other armaments, were produced by famed sculptor Lee Lawrie.

A “Memorial Museum” was planned for the plaza underneath the western approach and was to contain the names of all Pennsylvania veterans of World War I, but the onset of the Great Depression prevented further state expenditures on the bridge. The museum was to contain artifacts and “trophies” of all wars involving Pennsylvanians.

The bridge has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1988 and was listed as a National Historic Landmark on March 11, 2013, along with all of the Pennsylvania State Capitol complex. **E**

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



# A ROW OVER GOVERNORS' ROW

*Editor's note: We received many comments about stories in our March issue. Among them: an email from Carrie Wissler-Thomas, president of Art Association of Harrisburg, regarding our "Past Tense" story on gubernatorial residences in Harrisburg. We thought we would share Wissler-Thomas' comments on the article, as well as the response by historian Jason Wilson, who wrote the story.*

I read with great interest your article on p. 23 of the March issue of TheBurg ("Where Governors Lived"), but was troubled by a historic oversight in the second paragraph.

Gov. William Findlay was the first Pennsylvania governor to live in Harrisburg when the capital moved here in 1817. Findlay was governor from 1817 through 1821, and he lived at 21 N. Front St., the very building where The Art Association of Harrisburg has been situated since 1964. Gov. Hiester also lived here, and Gov. Shunk lived next door at 23 N. Front St. At the end of the block, where Balaban's law offices now are located, was the house where Gov. Shulze lived. This block is Governors' Row and is on the National Historic Registry.

You stated in your essay that "From Gov. Snyder through Gov. Pollock, Pennsylvania's chief executive did not have 'official' living quarters in Harrisburg," which was true except for the name of Gov. Snyder. It was Gov. Findlay who was the first governor to live here. Governors' Row was built by architect Stephen Hills in 1810 for Robert Harris, grandson of John Harris, city founder. The houses were two-story, Federal-style brick at that time. In 1865, the owners of our building at 21 N. Front transformed the two-story brick into a four-story Italianate mansion with a brownstone façade, but the home is still known as The Governor Findlay Mansion.

Governors' Row is a vital part of Harrisburg's history and is an architectural treasure along the riverfront in downtown Harrisburg. The Art Association of Harrisburg was founded in 1926 and continues to thrive, bringing 10 exhibitions of national, regional and even international artwork to our galleries annually. AAH offers 32 classes for youth and adults in four semesters each year, also primarily in studios here at 21 N. Front St.

*Carrie Wissler-Thomas  
President, Art Association of Harrisburg*

*Response from historian Jason Wilson:*

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the article on the governors' mansions and for pointing out my oversight in neglecting to mention that, in addition to rooms or apartments,

governors also rented homes, many of them from 21 to 27 N. Front St. As you indicate, the mansions of "Governors' Row" are an important part of Harrisburg's history, as most were constructed by Stephen Hills, architect of the first Capitol building (built from 1819 to 1822).

Harrisburg became the capital of Pennsylvania in October of 1812 (not 1817, as you state) during Gov. Snyder's second term. Author Le Roy Greene asserts that Snyder did maintain a residence on N. Front Street, from which to conduct business, while his family lived in Selinsgrove.

As you indicate, Govs. Findlay, Heister and Shunk resided in the houses along Governors' Row, but it seems to have been left to each subsequent governor to determine his own living arrangements. It was not until the Executive Mansion Act of 1858 that the state began providing a residence that served in an "official" capacity as the "Governor's Mansion," which was more the scope of the article in last month's Burg.

What is certain and undoubtedly agreed upon is that the houses comprising "Governor's Row," as well as The Art Association, remain important and visible parts of the architectural and artistic landscape of Harrisburg.

*Jason L. Wilson  
Historian, Capitol Preservation Committee*

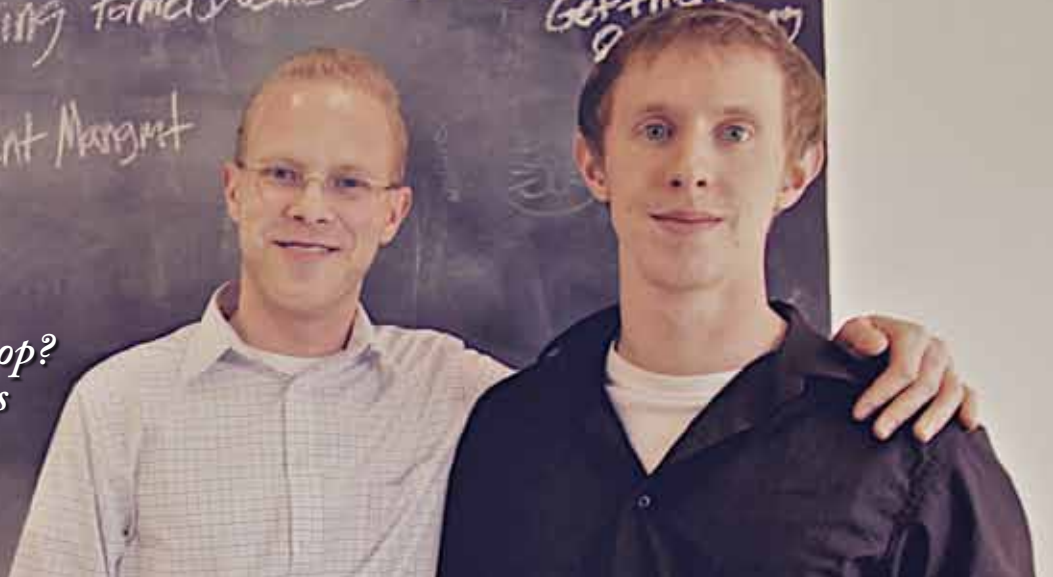


Lead Closing, Up Sell Get them, Revisiting Former Business, Content Marketing

## START HERE

*Lonely at home? Tired of the coffeeshop? Harrisburg's first co-work space gives professionals desks, tools, company.*

BY TREVOR PIERCE



“Our goal is to connect dreamers and doers, thinkers and tinkerers,” said Adam Porter, co-founder of St@rtup, a recently opened communal workspace at 1519 N. 3rd Street in Midtown Harrisburg.

St@rtup is the joint creation of Porter, a veteran of the non-profit sector, and Adam Brackbill, founder of Harrisburg-based Web development company Render Innovations. Operating under the philosophy “We > Me,” the company pools resources to offer businesses and individuals a full complement of professional services at a fraction of the cost of traditional office space.

“St@rtup is Harrisburg’s first co-working space,” explained Porter. “Co-working is a movement for entrepreneurs, tech folk and other creative professionals who would otherwise be working on their own or out of home offices.”

Brackbill and Porter began collaborating during a Harrisburg Young Professionals event in the summer of 2012. “I had seen other incubator spaces,” said Brackbill, “and Adam came to me with the concept of setting up a co-working space.”

The idea of a workspace for non-traditional businesses resonated with the Web designer, who had experienced the challenges of working alone firsthand.

“I thought it would be great having my own space for Render Innovations,” recalled Brackbill, “but it just starts to get a little too quiet. You don’t get to engage with people, and you get home and ask yourself what you just did for eight to 10 hours. I just enjoyed working around people, and not feeling so isolated.”

The pair immediately set to developing a business plan and moving forward with St@rtup. “From the day we’ve met until now, we’ve been researching this,” said Porter. “We started looking at spaces, registered as a Harrisburg LLC and have been really blessed to have Andy Enders as our insurance agent and counsel.”

After evaluating numerous properties, St@rtup found the N. 3rd Street location—the former home of the Midtown Scholar Bookstore and Absolute Wellness—through Harrisburg renewal company GreenWorks Development. “GreenWorks has been

immensely helpful; whenever we had a question they’ve been very responsive,” said Porter.

After weeks of renovations, the building’s new layout is a hybrid between incubator and coffeeshop, reflecting the founders’ vision of collaborative productivity. Upon entering St@rtup, visitors will find the lounge area, which is partitioned from the rest of the building by the works of local artists. “It’s all about networking; one member can help the others and vice-versa,” explained Brackbill.

With café-style seating, an abundance of outlets and coffee and snacks from St@rtup’s kitchen, the lounge promotes a relaxed, conversational atmosphere. “You can see a big difference between working at home and working with other people. For example, one person may be a designer, the other may be an author or a copywriter, and they’re able to work together,” said Brackbill. “That can work with members from multiple industries.”

Further on is the main office space: an open-air arrangement of work spaces, each with the functionality of a traditional cubicle, and a conference room available for companies’ private meetings and appointments. The space’s versatility is one of St@rtup’s biggest selling points to the city’s wide range of small businesses.

“St@rtup can be ideal for a variety of companies, such as political teams working in the city for six months at a shot who don’t want to sign a year-long lease,” said Porter. “If a handful of photographers don’t have the individual space or equipment, we could set up a studio. If a therapist or counselor needs the privacy, but can’t afford an office, that could work too.”

St@rtup eliminates many of the entry barriers for local entrepreneurs looking to launch their own small businesses. Amenities for members include high-speed Internet access, the latest in teleconferencing equipment and, perhaps most importantly, a physical address for mailing, incorporation and tax purposes. “It’s very important that this can be your business address,” said Porter. “Soon, hopefully 30 or 40 businesses will have 1519 N. 3rd St. on their business cards.”

Both part-time and full-time memberships are available to suit the needs and budgets of prospective

businesses. “If you’re a part-time member,” explained Porter, “you get a spot at the community table, use of our conference room, superfast Internet, break room, all that good stuff for up to three days a week. Full-time members get 24/7 access, along with a locker and their own desk and chair that’s exclusively theirs.”

St@rtup’s rates begin at \$175 per month for part-time memberships and \$275 per month for full-time, with discounts available for members who prepay for a three-month period.

Individuals interested in joining St@rtup are encouraged to schedule a tour of the location through StartupHBG.com. “We’ll show them the space, and get to know a little bit about them,” said Porter. “Once we each get to know one another, we’ll bring them back to sign up.”

The 3rd Street location can currently house “... anywhere between 25 to 40 businesses,” said Porter, “depending on if we have more interest in the full-time side of things, or more part-timers.” Brackbill and Porter are already exploring potential expansions to St@rtup’s flagship location and additional co-working spaces in the region if demand is sufficient. Future events also include mixers, networking events and a member newsletter.

While Brackbill and Porter have planned ahead, the nature of St@rtup’s future will be dictated by the interactions of its members. “Co-working spaces organically coalesce,” said Porter. “It’s very open and flexible.”

St@rtup hopes to provide Harrisburg’s most creative business minds with the resources to thrive and the inspiration to work together. “Spaces like this allow you do your own things and be just as productive as working at a traditional office,” concluded Brackbill, “but here you have the opportunity to help each other as well.” **B**

*St@rtup is located at 1519 N. 3rd St. in Midtown Harrisburg. Co-working spaces are available to interested professionals on either a part-time or full-time basis.*

*To apply for membership or find more information, call 717-743-1091, visit [StartupHBG.com](http://StartupHBG.com), or [Facebook.com/StartupHBG](https://www.facebook.com/StartupHBG).*



# SHIRT SHOCK

*What do you get when you combine an old power station, a T-shirt print shop and a bit of fun weirdness? Hi Voltage Productions.*

BY DEBBIE MERLO



No check in or extended stay is required, but, if he knows you're coming, Mike Ritchey will leave the gate open. Graciously and far too modestly, he will also explain what's going on inside the thick-walled, mammoth fortress, just beyond the foot of the Maclay Street Bridge.

The former PPL electric power station is now the home of Hi Voltage Productions, an apparel printing business where, it's rumored, some of the coolest T-shirts seen around Harrisburg have been created.

Converted into a print shop he runs with wife Tracy, Ritchey has covered nearly every inch of wall space with memorabilia—and each has a story. This includes “the cheap \$3 frame” hanging in his office that once held his now-missing diploma from Shippensburg University. He says he's not worried about the piece of paper. His mother will confirm that he graduated, and he's more intent on explaining the importance of the Captain America picture that replaced it.

In the main room, where most of the work is done on both manual and automatic presses, a 1965 pinball machine, completely restored to working order, is just a few steps beyond the machinery, resting against a wall and waiting, waiting—until a rough day that calls for playtime brings it to life.

Ritchey says he's acquired most of what's hanging and perched in places around the room because people have come to know his love for tinkering and rebuilding “stuff.” And, when they don't know what to do with something, they call him first to ask, “Hey, do you want this?”

That, he says, is how the piano sitting next to the pinball machine wound up there, too. When he and Tracy went looking for a new home to buy, he asked the agent if the abandoned piano he spotted in a corner came with the purchase. Turns out they didn't take the house, and the new owners didn't want the piano, so the realtor called Ritchey back to ask if he still wanted it.

He said “yes” and then was told: “Come get it, it's yours.” With limited time, few friends able to help and no truck, Ritchey rushed the piano down N. 2nd Street to its new home. Laughing at the memory, he recalls that it was “heavy and scary.” Then he adds, “Those wheels are small, and not meant for rolling down a busy street in the middle of the afternoon.”

Ritchey's focus on fun doesn't overshadow his strict adherence to quality work and an unwavering commitment to a happy customer experience, one without the hassles of added set-up fees and extra charges. He even points out pieces of machinery he's built himself, such as an exposure unit used to burn screens that, he says, he “put together from garbage”—stuff he gathered “here and there” to make it work.

Ritchey is content to elaborate with entertaining stories about a previous life as a bicycle messenger in San Francisco (where he met Tracy) with evident passion. But the main idea is for others to recognize that “he really does know graphics,” while being unapologetic for the low-key persona that, he says, doesn't allow him to go out on the street with self-promotion in mind.

He likes to relax, have a beer and talk “about fun things, but I won't leave this building and go around asking people, ‘so you want to talk about T-shirts?’” He says he likes to just “do his thing,” adding that, while some days can be bad, how awful can they get—being in here, surrounded by “all this fun stuff?”

He adds “even if you do want to remain ‘low-key’, you've got to make things fun and exciting ...”

An automatic press isn't necessarily synonymous with fun and excitement, but acquiring one was necessary. Business was steadily growing and producing a large order with the manual machine meant working into the wee hours of the morning, less time at home and more aching muscles than he'd care to count.

Huge fans of pop culture art, both Ritcheys say their home is similar to the shop in reflecting their tastes “except that it's a normal house.” With a deep, guttural laugh, Mike points out two posters while explaining the distinctions—obvious only to the trained eye and not the clueless—between screen prints and digital photos.

Pointing upward he says: “See where the colors bleed ...” before launching into another engaging tale of how this particular poster came to take up residence on that particular spot of concrete wall—as he graciously ushers his guests down a staircase to the next phase of the tour. **E**

*Hi Voltage Productions is located at 628 Maclay St., Harrisburg. More information is at 717-695-7365 or [www.hivoltagepa.com](http://www.hivoltagepa.com).*





# LA FESTA DI ASPARAGUS

*Celebrate spring Italian-style.*

BY ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER



**A**h, Italy. Can you think of any other place that devotes several weeks each year to the celebration of a vegetable? That's what happens in the small northern Italian town of Bassano del Grappa, home also to the potent brandy-like spirit grappa. Every April and stretching into May, the locals harvest the long-awaited asparagus spears cultivated with care by local farmers. Especially prized is the white asparagus, which is grown underground and carefully protected from the light of day to keep its white color.

Restaurant owners gather in an ancient villa where chefs experiment with new asparagus recipes and even serve dinners with all asparagus

menus. Celebrations and music festivals go on for weeks. What do you think? How about having an asparagus festival along the river this year instead of Artsfest? Probably not.

My dear mother, Rose, was a person who eagerly awaited the arrival of spring. It brought her such joy: the season's first robin who paid a visit to her back porch (she insisted it was the same one every year), the little buds on the trees and the purple crocuses by her front door. Spring meant fresh vegetables as well, and it is safe to say, Rose had her own asparagus festival.

Every week at the farmers market, she would examine the asparagus stalks offered by the vendors and always ask the same question: "Is it

homegrown yet?" By homegrown, she meant locally grown rather than shipped from sunny Florida or California and, to her, homegrown asparagus was the best. She carefully chose the very skinny asparagus stalks, which were my father's favorite. It is the tender, thin asparagus that most resembles the wild variety growing in the northern Italian hills.

Italians put asparagus in everything. It has a place of honor at the Easter table and graces dishes from pasta and eggs to soups and chicken. I often sprinkle the stalks with olive oil, salt, pepper and breadcrumbs and bake them in a 350-degree oven for about 30 minutes. Made this way, asparagus takes on a sweet, roasted flavor. Another favorite preparation

is slicing the stalks at an angle and sautéing them with olive oil and red pepper flakes. And, in the summer, we grill them until they are slightly charred. There's asparagus lasagna and cold asparagus soup for a spring brunch. Scrambled eggs with asparagus and Parmesan cheese can be a light but elegant dinner. Or you can chill cooked stalks and wrap them in slices of rosy prosciutto for a first course. Asparagus works in stir-fries, too.

The recipe that follows is an elegant entree for an April dinner and is easily doubled or tripled for entertaining. It combines much-loved Italian ingredients: chicken, asparagus and Marsala wine. Pair it with rice of any kind and a nice chilled white wine.

## //////////////////////////////////// INVOLTINI DI PETTI DI POLLO //////////////////////////////////////

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- Wax paper
- Salt and pepper
- 4 slices of ham or prosciutto
- 4 slices of bel paese cheese (*or substitute fontina*)
- Flour (*I like Wondra for its lightness*)
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ¼ cup chicken stock
- ½ cup Marsala wine
- Cooked asparagus spears (*enough for four servings*)
- Grated cheese, if you like

Pound the chicken breasts between two sheets of wax paper until thin, then season the cutlets with a little salt and pepper.

Place a slice of ham or prosciutto on each cutlet, followed by a slice of the soft Italian cheese.

Roll each cutlet into a little "log," tying each with some kitchen twine to keep it together. Dust each one with a little flour.

Melt one tablespoon olive oil and two tablespoons of the butter in a skillet. Brown the chicken rolls on all sides. Use medium-low heat and turn the rolls frequently. The chicken should be thoroughly cooked (about 15 minutes).

Remove the chicken and keep it warm while preparing the sauce.

Add one additional tablespoon of butter along with the chicken stock and Marsala wine to the skillet. Bring the mixture to a boil and simmer for

three minutes, scraping the brown bits from the bottom of the pan. The sauce should thicken a bit.

Place the chicken rolls on a pretty serving dish and place cooked asparagus spears on top and all around. You can sprinkle with a little grated cheese, if you like.

The days are getting longer at last, and I think I saw my mother's robin the other day. Food for me is many things. One of them is a way to celebrate the seasons. There likely will be no asparagus festival along the Susquehanna this year. So have one in your kitchen. **E**



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





# DINNER & A DRINK

*In which we ask a chef and bartender to pair an entrée and a drink.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA



**WHERE: BRICK CITY BAR & GRILLE, 1313 N. 2ND ST., HARRISBURG**

**YOUR CHEF:** Adam Cargill

**WITH BRICK CITY:** Since 2010

**PREVIOUSLY:** Executive chef at Ceolta's

**HIS ENTRÉE:** Monterey Medallions

**DESCRIPTION:** Montreal-seasoned shoulder tenderloin beef medallions over sautéed mushrooms and onions, with a side of homemade garlic mashed potatoes.

**BASIC RECIPE:**

- Butterfly-cut tenderloin beef medallions
- Season with salt, black peppercorn, garlic and Montreal steak seasoning
- Grilled to order

**KEY TO THIS DISH:** "You want to keep it simple. A lot of people overdo it. When you have something classic like steak and potatoes, you don't want to mess with it too much."

**WHY THIS DISH IS POPULAR:** "It's a very traditional meat-and-potatoes dish. It's American cuisine at its finest."

**YOUR BARTENDER:** Alexis Cantando

**WITH BRICK CITY:** Since 2010

**PREVIOUSLY:** Alexis has been with Brick City from the start; it was her first bartending job

**HER DRINK:** Blackberry Mojito

**DESCRIPTION:** A mojito that substitutes vodka for rum

**BASIC RECIPE:**

- Blackberry vodka
- Fresh lemon juice
- Simple syrup
- Mint
- Blackberries

**KEY TO THIS DRINK:** "Taking the fresh fruit and muddling it so that the juices and the aroma come together with the other ingredients. All the components of the drink should complement each other."

**WHY THIS DRINK IS POPULAR:** "Blackberry is a good, refreshing flavor as the weather gets warmer. It's also something different that's hard to find elsewhere."

**WHY THIS PAIRING WORKS:**

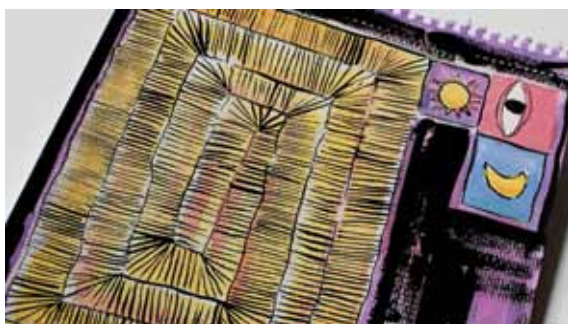
**"THE DARKNESS OF THE BERRIES IN THE VOJITO ACTS LIKE A RED WINE. THE HEAVY, SWEET FLAVOR OF THE DRINK BALANCES OUT THE SPICES AND SMOKINESS OF THE GRILLED MEAT." —ADAM CARGILL**



# ENERGY AND INTIMACY

*Stephen Michael Haas: the art and the individual.*

BY KARI LARSEN



Unlike other 21-year-olds, instead of merely calling himself an artist, Stephen Michael Haas is showing his India ink and watercolor paper series, “Universal Folklore,” all over Harrisburg.

Haas started to show his work last August after a short, but productive, time at the Maryland Institute College of Art. After leaving school, Haas said, “For about a year, I found myself unable to make artwork because I couldn’t make anything I felt had any sort of value to it. Once I realized that my work wasn’t at all about fitting into any preconceived notion of how an ‘artist’ should create, this burden keeping me from doing anything was lifted.”

Now Haas has produced a body of work that has earned him the respect of Harrisburg’s artistic community.

He debuted *Universal Folklore* at Harrisburg’s Studio A Gallery in August after showing his sketchbook to owner Anela Bence-Selkowitz. “I’m always nervous about looking at artwork in front of the artist, but I was floored by the sharpie prints he showed me,” said Bence-Selkowitz. “I immediately offered him a solo show.”

Not expecting such a positive reception, Haas created the majority of the work shown in under a month, before the exhibit opened for August’s 3rd in The Burg.

Lisa Bennett met Haas through Art Kaleidoscope, a monthly community art event she organizes at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore where artists give presentations of their work.

“I thought Stephen had great ideas about making artwork,” said Bennett, who also curates the Midtown Scholar’s Yellow Wall Gallery, where “*Universal Folklore*” was on exhibit from January to February 2013. “The work is definitely a representation of his own exploration. He’s so passionate about his work, and he has really wholesome, solid ideas about art. He’s focused on his ideas and the art that he’s going to make right now, in this moment. It’s refreshing and inspiring.”

Haas’ work has a board game quality about it that illustrates the process of adult discovery and is representative of the journey “to find the meeting place where the notion of ‘artist’ and the individual self come together,” said Bennett.

On his art, Haas said, “My aim is to immerse audiences in a world...as beautiful and vivid as childhood.”

Liz Larabee, director of the Olde Uptown-based arts initiative The MakeSpace, recognizes this quality in Haas’ work. “His work is genuine and unique and evokes a nostalgia that seems almost universal,” she said. “Seeing him at work in the community is energizing.”

Haas is a purveyor of energy and intimacy not only in his art, but also with his popular local band Flower Garden. Haas does not distinguish between projects; the goals of both Flower Garden and his visual body of work are the same—one of immersion.

Larabee met Haas when Flower Garden played for her art opening at Little Amps Coffee Roasters in the summer of 2012. Larabee said, “Before that, I knew him as a seemingly ubiquitous fixture at cultural events, wearing a huge smile and swim trunks. I invited him to paint a mural in the kitchen of The MakeSpace, which is one of my favorite features of the whole facility. The whole time he was painting...we kept a shouting conversation going about the nature of Harrisburg and what we hope to see develop here.”

Haas travels back and forth from Baltimore and Harrisburg working on an official Flower Garden recording that he aims to press on vinyl and take national later this year. April is Haas’ self-imposed deadline on album tracking. After the album is mastered, spring will see a return to live performances by Flower Garden and a new stage of Haas’ career for Harrisburg to enjoy. **E**

*You can check out more of Stephen’s work and music at: [stephenmichaelhaas.tumblr.com](http://stephenmichaelhaas.tumblr.com) [treecoverrecords.com](http://treecoverrecords.com)*



# ON THE WALL

## Harrisburg-area Artists

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

**D**uring TheBurg's winter hiatus, we missed covering several spectacular art events in and around Harrisburg. Fortunately, we still have time to tell you about two great exhibits at the State Museum.

The first, "A Tribute to Nicholas Ruggieri," displays a selection of watercolors by a man practically synonymous with Harrisburg art. Ruggieri was the long-time art director of the Patriot-News. In the early 1970s, to mark the nation's bicentennial, the newspaper sent him on a five-year mission to paint an iconic scene in each one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. Last year, the Patriot donated these paintings to the State Museum, which now has several of his scenes from central Pennsylvania on display.

Just across the hall, please indulge yourself in "Where There Is Light," a multi-disciplinary exhibit featuring photographs by Kevyn Bashore, sculptures and paintings by Freiman Stoltzfus and glass sculptures by Through the Fire Glass Studio, Aspen Glass Studio and Katherman Glass Studio. Linger over Bashore's photographic journey of a calendar year, in which he chronicles his daily life through images taken only with his iPhone camera, along with his insightful narratives.

"Where There Is Light" was originally scheduled to run only through mid-February, but was extended through the end of April, when the Ruggieri exhibit also will end. Hurry over so you don't miss seeing the works of these gifted midstate artists. **B**



Photo courtesy of: Beth Hager, PHMC.





# CULTURAL HOP

NEWPORT: GO FOR THE ART,  
STAY FOR THE CHARM.

BY DON HELIN

There was a time when people scoffed at the words “culture” and “Newport” in the same sentence. However, that was then and this is now.

In recent years, a cultural renaissance has enveloped this village about 20 miles northwest of Harrisburg, led by the Perry County Council of the Arts (PCCA). Founded in 1979, PCCA operates the gallery that anchors the square and showcases the work of more than 180 established and emerging artists.

“The gallery is a friendly place where visitors can enjoy looking at photographs, illustrations and paintings in a variety of techniques,” said Manager Jasmine Colbert. “Visitors quickly realize that not only does the gallery have a complete collection of quality art and crafts, but that PCCA showcases unique gifts, gifts you might not find in other places.”

A perfect example is reflected in the work of Harrisburg artist Jason Lyons, whose animal

sculptures are made of re-purposed kitchen utensils, tools and typewriter parts.

“I feel the main reason for my continued success is that Jasmine, as gallery manager, nurtures new talent and promotes established artists’ work with a wide-ranging and ever-changing inventory of

high-quality fine art and crafts,” said Lyons. “This creates a fresh experience every time a patron visits the gallery.”

In addition to the gallery, PCCA operates an arts-in-education program, which places professional artists in classrooms in Perry, Juniata, Mifflin, Huntingdon, Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties.

“In 2012, over 50,000 people took a class, saw an exhibit, displayed their art, attended a recital, interacted with an artist, read their poetry,

bought artwork, met, danced, sang, painted or photographed, all under the auspices of PCCA,” said Executive Director Roger Smith.

**“IN 2012, OVER 50,000 PEOPLE TOOK A CLASS, SAW AN EXHIBIT, DISPLAYED THEIR ART, ATTENDED A RECITAL, INTERACTED WITH AN ARTIST, READ THEIR POETRY, BOUGHT ARTWORK, MET, DANCED, SANG, PAINTED OR PHOTOGRAPHED.”**

## HEART OF A COMMUNITY

Arthur Clair and Bertha Landis, who had lived the life of expatriates in Germany directly after World War I, left their home in Hamburg and returned to central PA when the Nazis rose to power. In 1938, they purchased a stately home in Newport at 67 N. Fourth St. Bertha and youngest daughter Mary briefly returned to Germany and arranged for the shipment of the contents of the Hamburg mansion to Newport.

Upon her death in 2004, Mary Landis bequeathed her home, its contents and an endowment to PCCA. It was Mary’s wish that Landis House become a museum and a venue for recitals and exhibitions. It opened to the public in September 2009 with its first exhibition, “Central Pennsylvania Self-Portraits,” in which 32 contemporary artists from the region revealed how they saw themselves.

Within the Landis Collection are scores of Meissen and Dresden figurines, military campaign buttons from the Spanish-American War, flapper dresses and tuxedos, artwork from noted European painters, including the French realist Gustav Courbet, beautifully hand-carved and inlaid German furniture and a 90-year old Bechstein grand piano.

Since its opening, Landis House has witnessed many recitals of classical music, including





# GOING THERE

## PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ARTS

Open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

## LANDIS HOUSE

Open Wednesday and Friday afternoons, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., the first Saturday of each month, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

## HUNTERS VALLEY WINERY

Open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

[huntersvalleywines.com](http://huntersvalleywines.com)

## BUTCHER'S FARM MARKET

Open year around. Summer hours: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

[butchersfarmmarket.com](http://butchersfarmmarket.com)

## ESPRESSO YOURSELF CAFÉ

Open Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Thursday and Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra Maestro Stuart Malina on the fabulous Bechstein piano, plus evenings of show tunes and country, bluegrass, jazz and Celtic music. Exhibitions of contemporary art by both established and emerging artists have drawn participants from around central Pennsylvania.

## COFFEE TO KALE

After visiting the PCCA Gallery and the Landis House, it's time to satisfy your palette at Espresso Yourself Cafe. Proprietor Cheryl Miller ran a natural food stand at the Broad Street Market in Harrisburg for 17 years before opening the cafe on the square in Newport. In addition to coffee, tea and delightful pastries, she serves breakfast and lunch from a menu boasting a commitment to natural, organic and local ingredients.

"I learned to cook from my grandmother, but I like to incorporate modern techniques and global flavors into my recipes," said Miller. "I enjoy making my meals as healthy as possible, but I'll have to say that my potato rivel soup, a Pennsylvania Dutch classic, is one of the most popular items on the menu."

Stacey and Mark Butcher are happy to be a part of Newport's growth.

"We farm 100 acres of produce that we fresh pick

every morning and take directly into our market two miles away," Stacey said. "We want to give our customers that real farm experience by seeing the produce being brought in from the fields on our green tractors and wagons—mud on those tires and Hunter the dog, riding the tractor with farmer Mark."

Five years ago, they could not give kale away, but this year they are planting double the amount of kale from last year.

"Now, the increased sale of kale is due to the many new customers who have made Newport their home or who visit Newport on a regular basis," said Stacey. "Not only are we growing more kale, but we are growing many new items, including Chinese cabbage, bok choy, radicchio and broccoli rabe—to name a few."

The last stop on your visit should be Hunters Valley Winery, located about 10 miles east of Newport. It's a small winery, producing about 4,000 gallons of wine annually. The vineyard offers a magnificent view of the Susquehanna River and valleys to the east. Opened in 1986 by Bill and Darlene Kvaternik, the winery moved into its current hilltop location in 2006.

The winery offers two free open house and craft

fairs yearly. Local vendors display their wares on the lawn, and musicians perform in the nearby pavilion.

"We love to see our customers enjoying the wine and the scenery and having a place to meet with friends," Darlene said. "Our winery takes part in

two wine trails: Susquehanna Heartland Wine Trail and the Hershey Harrisburg Wine Country."

So, is it time to give Newport a try? Long-time Camp Hill resident Diane Beible thinks so.

"I've found Newport to be a charming town with lots of surprises," she said. "I've taken many friends on visits there, and they all return and bring more friends. It's a great way to spend the day." **B**

## "I'VE FOUND NEWPORT TO BE A CHARMING TOWN WITH LOTS OF SURPRISES."

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



# CORE VALUES

*Meet the actors who make Gamut run.*

BY LORI M. MYERS



Photos by: Brianna Dow | Photos from left to right: 1. Emily Gray. GTG's 2010 production of *As You Like It*; 2. Clockwise from top: Melissa Nicholson, Krista Carter, Jennie Adams, Bill D'Agostino, Jamie Tyrell, Alexis Dow Campbell, Jeremy Garrett, Clark Nicholson. Gamut Core Company, 2007–2008; 3. Above, current CoreCo actor, Thomas Weaver; former CoreCo actor, Ian Potter. GTG's 2011 production of *Hamlet*; 4. From left, current CoreCo actress, Emily Gray; current CoreCo actor, David Ramón Zayas; Eric Brown. GTG's 2011 production of *All's Well That Ends Well*.

**Y**ou've seen them many times if you're a frequent visitor to Gamut Theatre.

Emily C. Gray, Thomas Weaver and David Ramón Zayas are part of the "Core Company" of actors who act, teach, build sets, keep props and costumes in working and wearing order. In other words, they do what needs to be done to keep the operation running smoothly at this prized theater on the third floor of Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg.

And what a theatrical education they receive: reciting Shakespeare one minute then vacuuming the stage to get ready for a Popcorn Hat children's show—and the next minute piling into a car to perform one of many touring shows at a local school. There are production meetings to attend, rehearsals, emails to answer. It's intense, it's tiring, it's wonderful.

"Gamut is special to me because I've grown up there," Gray says. "I've learned so much about myself and about acting during my time with Clark and Melissa (Nicholson—Gamut Theatre Group's artistic and executive director respectively). I've gained confidence in myself and feel that, if I can keep up with the pace here, I can do almost anything."

And keeping up with the pace is key.

A typical day for Gray—the first Gamut theater school student to return and become a core company member—begins at 9 a.m. as the group begins preparations for a Popcorn Hat show. Gray assists Weaver in setting up the stage and, as the overseer of the costumes, she sprays them with "watered-

down vodka" to keep them fresh, then places props where needed. She's in charge of opening up the theater when it's just about show time and greeting audience members—young and young at heart—as they file in.

In a recent Popcorn Hat performance, Gray played three physically demanding roles. After the show and staying in costume, she says good-bye to the audience, changes, has lunch. Then it's clean the kitchen, make some props, pull costumes for the next show, run errands, do laundry, assistant teach theater school classes, send out mailers—and the list goes on. Most days go into late afternoon; others continue into the evening.

Meanwhile, Weaver, as technical director of the theater, builds, paints and cleans—and generally keeps the theater running efficiently.

"Translation: I take out the trash and change lights bulbs, too," Weaver says.

Of course, Weaver also performs in the children's shows, on main stage and in Gamut's Shakespeare in the Park at Reservoir Park, as does Zayas, who recently completed a one-man show on Gamut's main stage.

"As far as work routine goes, there was a lot more ease given to me (during the run of the show) to allow me rest and preparation time, which I am exceedingly appreciative of," he says.

The creation of a core company arose out of necessity, said Melissa Nicholson. When Gamut formed in 1993, the theater didn't have enough money to pay actors; instead it paid on percentage. Now, these full-time Gamut actors make a living

wage and live together for free at the Town House Apartments in Harrisburg.

"The advantages are that it fosters a sense of ensemble," Nicholson explains. "It makes it easier and faster to put up shows because the actors are used to each other."

Both Gray and Weaver are from central Pennsylvania, but Zayas hails from Detroit. The Nicholsons attend national auditions like those in Memphis or hire others through recommendations. Core actors must be multi-talented in all facets of stage work, be flexible, have specific backstage skills and have a sense of humor.

Over the years, about 34 actors have been employed by Gamut through its Core Company program; some have continued on in theater; others have pursued different interests and lives. One is currently doing a national tour of a children's play, one went on to work with a Shakespeare company in the south, another went on to found a Shakespeare company in the north.

"I have very mixed emotions when someone leaves," Nicholson says. "Proud. Sad. Melancholy. Excited for the next one."

Weaver is not completely sure what will happen after his Gamut experience. But what he is sure of is that he looks forward to continue his professional and personal relationships with everyone he's lived and performed with.

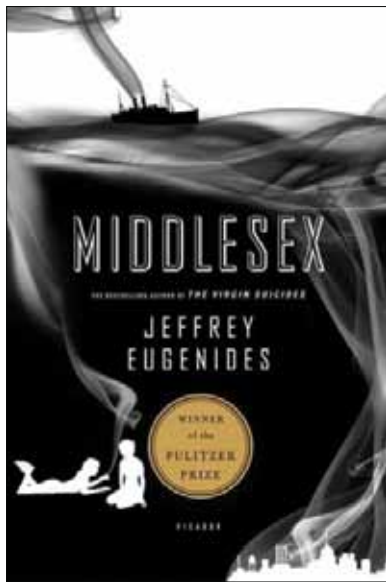
"That is what is special to me about Gamut," he muses, "and what I will take with me when I leave: the family." **B**



# SEEN AT THE SCHOLAR

*Read this: An overview of what is being read by the staff of Midtown Scholar Bookstore.*

BY AUBREY BOURGEOIS



## MIDDLESEX

by Jeffrey Eugenides

529pp—Farrar, Straus and Giroux

**Good for fans of:** first-person fiction, LGBT issues, complex storylines, David Foster Wallace, Jonathan Franzen, “The Virgin Suicides”

**Why:** This title has been spoken about in ways that make you wonder if the term “great American novel” doesn’t apply. Telling the tale of a family secret, this novel might remind some of John Steinbeck’s “East of Eden.” Of course, with exactly 50 years between the two books, there is a different American story to be told in this 2002 Pulitzer Prize winner. An immigrant Greek family as the story’s focus and an intersex narrator make this novel like nothing you have read before. It is the tale of compassion and love that can be understood by every person, regardless of gender.

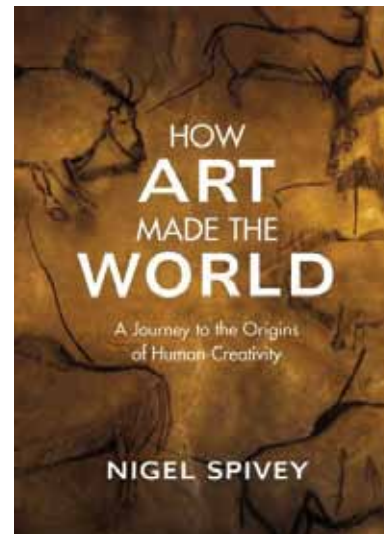
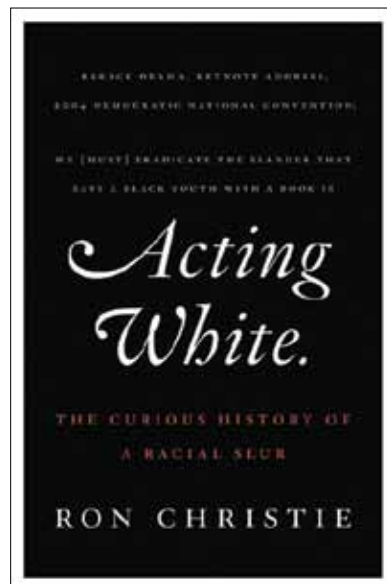
## ACTING WHITE: THE CURIOUS HISTORY OF A RACIAL SLUR

by Ron Christie

239pp—St. Martin’s Press

**Good for fans of:** political topics, etymologies, African-American studies, history lessons

**Why:** It might seem strange that a Republican author would choose a quote by Barack Obama for the front cover of his book, but open the cover and you will see a list of chapters covering milestones since Harriet Beecher Stowe. The book examines the ideas of segregation in the time of Booker T. Washington and Plessy vs. Ferguson and black literacy and education in the times of W.E.B. Dubois and Brown vs. Board of Education. With a glance at Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, we see how America grew into a place with the first black Supreme Court justice and president of the United States. The feel of the entire book echoes the old adage: don’t judge a book by its cover, but rather by the content of it characters. This book knows that a black youth with a book isn’t “acting white” but is seeking more knowledge to grow from.



## HOW ART MADE THE WORLD: A JOURNEY TO THE ORIGINS OF HUMAN CREATIVITY

by Nigel Spivey

288pp—Basic Books

**Good for fans of:** artists, human history, nonfiction knowledge, PBS, beautiful pictures

**Why:** You may have come across the 2006 PBS documentary series of the same title sometime when you were flipping through channels. If you didn’t happen to catch it then, why not pick up the book written by the host of the series? Taking on the topic of art anthropologically with the motto “everyone is an artist,” this book shows the ways that humans make art, but also how art makes us human. Examining the themes that recur throughout history since the time of cave drawings and into the digital age, this book dares us to ask why we, as a species, have time and time again gone back to creating visual representations of the things we can see and even the things we cannot.

## BIG PLANS

by Bob Shea (author), Lane Smith (illustrator)

48pp—Hyperion Books

**Good for fans of:** young children’s books, dreamers, big illustrations, reading aloud, bedtime stories

**Why:** This is the book our children’s section manager has been talking about. These large, colorful pages—full of astronauts and football players—will easily keep the eyes of even the smallest scholars on the page. We love the message this story sends about childhood plans and the endless possibilities of growing up. Empowering and engaging, this book could bring out big dreams in even a small mind.



## NEW AT THE BOOKSTORE:

Be sure to check out Midtown Scholar’s newly expanded Shakespeare section, including copies of all 37 plays and many sonnets. There’s something for everyone, no matter the amount of knowledge you already possess about the Bard of Avon. Find critical readings of his writings, biographies on the man and the myth—even humorous interpretations of his famous plot lines. These easily identifiable classics will look great in your living room. **B**





Photo courtesy of: Dani Fresh

# AFTER/MIKE

*Rocked by the death of their founder, Greenbelt Events holds steady and plays on.*

BY JESS HAYDEN

Concert promoter Mike Van Jura did a lot to jumpstart the music scene in Harrisburg. From the rocking, high-energy shows at the Appalachian Brewery's Abbey Bar to the incredible display of talent during last year's Kipona Festival, Van Jura seemed to have his finger in every pie.

"He was a self-taught businessman, and he learned all he knew about music just by constantly listening to new music and going to shows," said his brother Billy Van Jura. "Growing up, his room was like a den for music. He had an awful poster of Jon Bon Jovi on the wall, and Bruce Springsteen was in heavy rotation. There was always music playing at our house."

"Jersey Mike," as he was known to friends, passed away unexpectedly last November, sending shock waves through a community of people who had grown to appreciate his finely honed sense of who the next up-and-coming band would be. On the week that he died, the Abbey Bar had a packed schedule, but Sarah Staub, Van Jura's business partner, along with sound engineer Alec Simmers and marketing director Ben Ketchum, stepped up to make sure that the shows ran smoothly.

"Everything was a blur after his unexpected

passing, but I know that the week he died we had four large shows at ABC," said Staub. "We all felt that the shows had to go on. That's what Mike would have wanted."

In December, the threesome organized two benefit events: one at the Abbey Bar and the other at the Harrisburg Midtown Arts Center to help raise funds for Van Jura's two young children. Both featured music and a silent auction where people could bid on signed show posters, artwork from Van Jura's personal collection and framed prints. The events also gave Van Jura's friends a chance to grieve.

"He had professional friends and personal friends and a billion of them in between who had worked with him and had also hung out and drank beers with him," said Billy Van Jura. "I think that these events gave Harrisburg a chance to have its own memorial."

Staub first met Van Jura about 10 years ago at a Medeski Martin & Wood show at the Chameleon Club in Lancaster. They instantly hit it off, and soon she started coming back from college to visit him.

Hoping to infuse the local music scene, they started a collective called Roundtable Presents with a couple of other friends. After doing shows at several other venues, they put in a bid

to be talent buyers for the Appalachian Brewing Company. Artie Tafoya, part owner of ABC, said that he was glad to bring Van Jura on to locate the talent that they just didn't have time to find. "With his passion for music, Mike was able to do a great job of improving the quality of music that we were able to bring in," he said.

ABC opened its doors in 1997. The partners had spent more than two years renovating a burned-out hulk to create the beautiful, 50,000-square-foot venue that houses the brewery, a restaurant, the Abbey Bar, a room for functions and office space. Once the historic home of the Harrisburg Trolley Corp. and offices for the Work Projects Administration, the space had been transformed into a destination point for discerning diners and brew pub enthusiasts.

"It's such a big facility that we've always had to look for ways to fill it," said Tafoya. "Having really good entertainment has helped us to utilize the space well."

Soon after Van Jura and Staub began running shows at the Abbey Bar, they changed their company name to Greenbelt Events. "We wanted to give the company a name that people would feel comfortable with," recalls Staub. "We both liked being outdoors so we named it after Harrisburg's Greenbelt nature trail."



**IN HONOR OF THE FOUNDER OF GREENBELT EVENTS, THE JERSEY MIKE MEMORIAL ROCK AND RUN 5-K RACE WILL BE HELD ON CITY ISLAND IN HARRISBURG ON SATURDAY, APRIL 13 AT NOON.**

The race was developed by the K+L Guardian Foundation, which was formed to benefit Mike Van Jura's children. The race was designed to promote heart-healthy activities and to provide outlets for people who have lost a loved one manage their grief through healthy, positive activities.

Participants may run or walk, and a 1-Mile Fun Run for Kids is planned. An after-party will be held at Ceoltas Irish Pub in Harrisburg.

Registrations and donations are accepted at [runsignup.com/Race/PA/Harrisburg/JerseyMikeMemorialRockRun5k](https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Harrisburg/JerseyMikeMemorialRockRun5k). Donations can also be sent to: K+L Guardian Foundation 1518 Green St., Harrisburg, Pa., 17102.



**COMING TO THE ABBEY BAR @ APPALACHIAN BREWING COMPANY**



**MARCH FOURTH MARCHING BAND  
APRIL 10TH**



**YARN  
APRIL 18TH**



**JAH WORKS  
APRIL 20TH**



**DOPAPOD  
APRIL 25TH**

Van Jura was the public face of Greenbelt Events while Staub stayed in the background. “Mike really loved to be in the spotlight and hoped to make a big difference in our small little city,” said Staub. “Mike was the idea guy. He woke up every day and hit the ground running.”

Staub provided the fledgling company with financial support and handled the accounting, legal issues and paperwork. “Mike and I had that dynamic that worked really well,” she said. “We would go out to breakfast every Monday or Tuesday and just plan the week; shoot around ideas, basically just think about what we wanted to do and make it happen.”

Van Jura did all the booking, but both he and Staub selected the bands. “Mike tended to enjoy rock shows, and I like more jam bands and bluegrass,” she said. “So, together, we each had our dream bands that we wanted to get and we would just pursue those bands until we got them.”

During the last several years, the pair was able to book just about every band they really wanted, including some standouts like The Hold Steady, Hackensaw Boys, the Carolina Chocolate Drops and the Steep Canyon Rangers.

From the beginning, Greenbelt Events structured the shows so that local artists would have a chance to open for national acts. “Having local support not only brings the people from the area in, but it also gives local groups a chance to grow as a band,” said Staub. “They get the opportunity to perform for people that they wouldn’t necessarily otherwise draw in. It’s a win-win for us all.”

Van Jura wouldn’t just pay the local bands—he also would take the time to give them advice. “He would just keep on pushing and encouraging and pushing and encouraging, even when they were ready to back off themselves,” said Billy Van Jura. “He inspired them to work harder and to

believe in themselves.”

One band that Van Jura had a lot of influence on was the bluegrass/Americana band Cabinet. When the Scranton-based band was just starting out, Van Jura gave them a chance to build up a fan base by inviting them to play every Wednesday for a month. “It worked out really well,” said guitar player Mickey Coviello. “Every time we went back there, more and more people came out to see us.”

Cabinet ended up getting so popular at the Abbey Bar that they decided to record a live CD there. “We sold out the place,” said Coviello. “It was really a blast!”

Now, after signing on to a new booking agency, Cabinet is getting ready to embark on an ambitious 12-city tour. Coviello credits a lot of the band’s success to being able to play at places like the Abbey Bar. “Mike Van Jura did a lot for us down there,” said Coviello. “He helped out a lot of bands that way.”

Since Van Jura’s death, Staub has taken over all the booking and has worked hard to keep the company going, despite a challenging career in real estate. “I think about this dream that we created together and letting it go is just not an option,” she says. “We’re going to keep producing the same quality of shows we had before and expand the way Mike had dreamed.”

Recently, she booked a show with Frank Black that drew nearly 350 people on a Sunday. “It was the biggest show that we did since Mike passed,” she said. “I think he would have been really proud of it.”

Tafoya is confident that Staub has what it takes to continue the work of Van Jura. “She’s come across some difficult situations that she’s just handled so professionally,” he said. “We’re very excited about the future of entertainment in the Abbey Bar.” **E**





## COMING TO HBG

*April is the coolest month.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

The month of April is chock-full of genre-busting, sing-a-long, symphonic goodness. It's hard to contain our recommendations to a few bands. So, we've put together an alphabetized guide to your best bets over the next 30 days.

**Appalachian Brewing Company** presents March Fourth Marching Band.

Think Village People meets local marching band meets Kiss. Dressed in kitschy band attire, this music carnival contains a section of horns, drums, electric guitarists, flag and fire dancers, stilt walkers and acrobats. The adult Barnum & Bailey has arrived. Their motto is "A Date. A Command. A Band." Don't forget it.

**FedLive** presents Brown Bird. Hailing from Portland, Maine, this 3-person-band fronted by Dave Lamb will bring out all the instrumental stops: fiddle, cello, ukulele, lap steel guitar, upright bass and a dobro. Don't know what a dobro is? Come out and view this Americana trio that will treat you to blues, swing, country and folk tunes.

**HMAC Stage on Herr** welcomes The Woggles. The Woggles (not the Wiggles although they parodied them on "30 Rock" last year) draw their inspiration from rockabilly, a marriage of rock, country and rhythm and blues. If you like up-tempo garage rock, and respect the following bands they've shared the stage with—Johnny Cash, the Strokes and the New York Dolls—then opt for The Woggles (again, not The Wiggles).

**TheMakeSpace** says hello to Barren Girls. The four-piece, all-female punk garage band was recently signed to the near-legendary indie label, Merge Records this winter. This high-energy, sweat-inducing show will justify this band's rising profile in the music industry. Put on your boots for this one.

**The Whitaker Center/TheForm** brings in B.B. King. Does the 87-year-old virtuoso need an introduction? The blues master who made his start in the '60s, due to Sinatra's backing, makes the word "tour de force" sound like a simple jog. He's playing 18 shows in April alone from Michigan to Mississippi. You want to hear that one-note vibrato that defines this icon. **B**

*Mentionables: Appalachian Brewing Company: Start Making Sense on April 6, and The Dirty Sweet on April 13 | FedLive: Wayne "The Train" Hancock on April 1, and Jenny Owens Young on April 20 | HMAC Stage on Herr: Tartufi w/ You You Dark Forest on April 2, and The Greatest Funeral Ever on April 20 | TheMakeSpace: Jake Lewis/Widad on April 27, and Jack Grelle/The Johnson Family on April 30 | Whitaker Center/The Forum: 2CELLOS on April 2, and Dave Mason Acoustic Duo on April 12 (both at Whitaker Center).*

4 | 10

MARCH FOURTH MARCHING BAND, APRIL 10

APPALACHIAN BREWING COMPANY  
50 N. CAMERON ST., HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 9 P.M.

4 | 10

BROWN BIRD, APRIL 10

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

4 | 19

B.B. KING, APRIL 19

WHITAKER CENTER/THE FORUM  
222 MARKET ST. HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.

4 | 25

THE WOGGLES, APRIL 25

HMAC STAGE ON HERR  
268 HERR ST., HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.

4 | 25

BARREN GIRLS, APRIL 25

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





**APRIL**

**2CELLOS**

Thursday, April 4

Whitaker Center Presents at the Forum

**David Sedaris**

Wednesday, April 10

**A Special Unplugged Evening with Dave Mason**

Friday, April 12

Whitaker Center Presents at the Forum

**B.B. King**

Friday, April 19

**MAY**

**Bacon Brothers**

Saturday, May 4

**JULY**

**U.S. Army Field Band: Jazz Ambassadors**

Tuesday, July 2

**Hot Tuna Electric**

Friday, July 26



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## A MONTH *in* PICTURES



**MARCH 15:** Hungry Harrisburgers formed long lines at the first Food Truck Festival MashUp, held in the parking lot of the HACC Midtown campus. *Credit: Nomad Photography by Michael Drake II.*



**MARCH 1:** Harrisburg native Marques Colston, a wide receiver with the New Orleans Saints, attended 500 Men Reading, an annual weeklong event that encourages literacy in children and adult engagement.



**MARCH 15:** A woman signs in during the Friends of Midtown social held at the Historic Harrisburg Resource Center. *Credit: Nomad Photography by Michael Drake II.*



**MARCH 2:** Children tap a tree at the annual Maple Sugar Festival at Fort Hunter Park. *Credit: Nomad Photography by Michael Drake II.*



**MARCH 15:** Artist Julie Riker stands next to her painting, which was auctioned off at City House Bed & Breakfast to benefit YWCA's 30-day emergency shelter for women and children. *Credit: Nomad Photography by Michael Drake II.*



**MARCH 9:** The band Wooden Wand stopped by The MakeSpace for a show during their recent East Coast swing. *Credit: Dani Lucas Photography.*



**MARCH 15:** 3rd in The Burg featured a wide variety of art and events, including "BookHer," a humorous collection of mugshots of local women. Curated by Anela Selkowitz.




**MARCH 12:** Board member Ralph Vartan, member Mike Wilson, President Meron Yemane and board member Ace Reddy shared conversation and a drink at the Harrisburg Young Professionals' annual meeting and reception.



**MARCH 16:** The St. Patrick's Day parade wound its way through downtown Harrisburg, despite unseasonable wintry weather that held down the crowd size.

*Protection for whatever comes next!*



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## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Eat Smart, Play Smart

**April 2, 3:** PinnacleHealth is sponsoring a weight management program for overweight children and their parents and will host classes on the East and West shores. "Eat Smart, Play Smart" meets once a week over eight weeks. On the East Shore, classes will be located at Messiah Lutheran Church, every Tuesday starting April 2, 6:30-8 p.m. On the West Shore, classes will be hosted at Fredricksen Outpatient Center, every Wednesday starting April 3, 6:30-8 p.m. Register by calling 717-231-8900.

### National Walking Day

**April 3:** Harrisburg residents are encouraged to ditch their chairs and take steps toward a more active, healthier future to celebrate the American Heart Association's National Walking Day. Walking challenge takes place at Strawberry Square, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more, e-mail [larissa.bedrick@heart.org](mailto:larissa.bedrick@heart.org) or call 717-730-1762.

### Candidates' Debate

**April 4:** Harrisburg Hope returns with a debate featuring candidates running for Harrisburg City Council, 6 p.m. at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St. Expect a packed dais as 10 candidates have declared for four council seats. Harrisburg Hope plans a second debate later in April featuring candidates for mayor. At press time, details of that event had not yet been confirmed.

### 150th Civil War Spring Lecture Series

**April 6:** The National Civil War Museum welcomes Jeffrey S. Prushankin, 1-2 p.m., to talk on the "Trans-Mississippi Theater" in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. For more, go to [nationalcivilwarmuseum.org](http://nationalcivilwarmuseum.org) or call 717-260-1861.

### PinnacleHealth Children's Resource Center Hosts Annual Benefit

**April 6:** PinnacleHealth Children's Resource Center will host its annual Friends Against Child Abuse benefit. Michael Gillum, M.A., therapist of Aaron Fisher, also known as Victim 1 in the Jerry Sandusky case, and Dawn Daniels, mother of Aaron Fisher, will speak at the event. Starts at 6 p.m. at the Radisson Penn Harris. \$75/person. For more information, call 717-231-8080.

### Stargazing at Fort Hunter

**April 6:** Star gaze and learn about the night sky with a local astronomer and retired planetarium director, Dennis Phillippy, in the east lawn of Fort Hunter Park, 7:30-9 p.m. Event is for members only. For more information and to become a member of Friends of Fort Hunter, visit [forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org).

### 1st Annual Fashion Week

**April 7:** Come to Harrisburg's first-ever fashion week at the Zembo Shrine. Tickets can be purchased from IMS Models Office, or by calling 717-425-4382.

### Capital 10-Miler

**April 7:** The third annual Harrisburg regional 10-mile "Run for the Arts" will benefit many area arts organizations: The Art Association of Harrisburg School & Galleries, Open Stage of Harrisburg, Gamut Theatre, and many more. For more information and to register, visit [capital10-miler.com](http://capital10-miler.com). Event starts at 9 a.m.

### Bill McKibben, Climate-Change Activist

**April 11:** Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org and a climate-change leader, will speak at Dickinson College about the front lines of the climate fight. Presentation starts at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Anita Tuvin Schlecter Auditorium. Free to the public.

### The History of the Millersburg Ferry

**April 11:** Join Capt. Jack Dillman for a historical perspective about the last wooden stern-wheel paddleboat believed to be operating in the United States. Learn how the Millersburg Ferry remained a critical form of transportation in the Susquehanna Valley long after the closing of other ferries and how it eventually became recognized and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Starts 7 p.m. at Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. For more information, visit [nedsmithcenter.org](http://nedsmithcenter.org).

### Cumberland Singers

**April 12-16:** The Cumberland Singers will perform this season's program, "Deep Peace," an introspective collection of the sacred and secular at various locations in Mechanicsburg and New Cumberland. Please look for location and times at [cumberlandingers.org](http://cumberlandingers.org) or contact Alissa at 717-367-8030. Free to the public.

### Jersey Mike Memorial Rock + Run 5K

**April 13:** In honor of "Jersey" Mike Van Jura, this race is designed to promote heart-healthy activities and to provide an outlet for adults and children who have lost a parent or loved one. Money raised during the event will go to the K+L Guardian Foundation to benefit Mike's two children. Sign up at [jerseymikerun.com](http://jerseymikerun.com). Starts at 12 p.m. on City Island.

### Photography Workshop

**April 13:** The Harrisburg Camera Club will sponsor its 3rd annual "Light and Creativity Photography Workshop" at Central Penn College Conference Center, Valley Road and B Street, Enola. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and is \$55 for club members and \$65 for non-members, including a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit [harrisburgcameraclub.org](http://harrisburgcameraclub.org).

### YMCA Trail Race

**April 13:** The East Shore YMCA will host a trail running event, the Kessler 5-Mile Trail Race, at Gifford Pinchot State Park outside Lewisberry in York County. Race day registration and packet pick-up begins at 8 a.m. at the Sunnyside Pavilion located off the Conewago Day Use parking lot, with the race beginning at 10 a.m. Online registration can be found at [HarrisburgYMCAraces.com](http://HarrisburgYMCAraces.com) and is open until April 10. Cost is \$20 until April 10 and \$25 on race morning.

### Walk from Obesity

**April 13:** The 2013 Walk from Obesity, an event designed to raise obesity awareness, will take place on the campus of Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Participants can walk either one or three miles. Registration is at 9 a.m. at the track near the University Conference Center, and the walk begins at 10 a.m. Pre-registration is \$25, and on-site registration is \$35. To pre-register and for more information, visit [pennstatehershey.org/walk2013](http://pennstatehershey.org/walk2013).

### Film: "Follow Me—The Story of Yoni Netanyahu"

**April 14:** The Jewish Community Center presents this 87-minute film about the life behind the hero of the Entebbe Airport rescue that cost Yoni his life on July 4, 1976. Presentation to follow by the film's writer and producer, Jonathan Gruber. Screening starts at 7 p.m. \$10/adult, \$5/child. For more information, call 717-236-9555.

### HBG Tweet-Up

**April 17:** Join the social gathering of local twitter characters at #AppalachianBrewingCompany, 7-10 p.m. You're not limited to 140-word conversations.

### Business Networking Mixer

**April 18:** The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce cordially invites you to their networking event at Sunworks in Annville, Pa. Business dress attire requested. Free for members/\$10 for prospective members, 5:30-8 p.m.

### An Evening with Karl Ludvigsen

**April 19:** The Antique Auto Museum at Hershey is proud to feature the famed author, Karl Ludvigsen. He will give a presentation based on his award-winning "Porsche—Origin of the Species." A book signing will follow. Tickets are \$85 and are available online or by calling the museum directly at 717-566-7100.

### Shakespeare's Birthday

**April 21:** Celebrate the Bard at the 10th Annual Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration with silent and live auctions, Elizabethan music and Shakespearean entertainment. Gamut Classic Theatre, 3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, 4-7 p.m. Visit [gamutplays.org](http://gamutplays.org).

### Adult Special Olympics games

**April 27:** The 23rd annual Adult Special Olympics games will be at the Naval Support Base in Mechanicsburg. Special Olympians ages 19 and older will compete. This is the only local event available for adult athletes to qualify for the state games held later this spring. For more information, call 717-732-6756.

### Race Against Racism

**April 27:** The YWCA of Greater Harrisburg will sponsor the 9th annual 5K run/walk to demonstrate the YWCA's commitment to racial justice. Proceeds will support YWCA and community-based programs dedicated to the elimination of racism. For more information, visit [ywcahbg.org](http://ywcahbg.org).

### Wetlands Festival

**April 27:** Celebrate Wildwood Park's treasured wetlands with a day of free, refreshing educational activities and programs designed for families, children and adults. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Olewine Nature Center. Free event.

### Preservation Awards

Historic Harrisburg Association is accepting nominations through April 29 for both its 2013 Preservation Awards and Preservation Priorities. Preservation Awards honor individuals, organizations, projects and programs whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. Preservation Priorities highlights historic properties that may be endangered and seeks to protect and preserve the region's important architectural heritage. Please email nominations to [info@HistoricHarrisburg.com](mailto:info@HistoricHarrisburg.com) or mail them to:

Historic Harrisburg  
1230 N. 3rd St.  
P.O. Box 1843, Harrisburg, PA, 17105

Nominations will be announced during Historic Harrisburg's celebration of National Historic Preservation Month in May. Visit [historicharrisburg.com](http://historicharrisburg.com) for more information.



## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

### Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

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

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

“An Evening with Karl Ludvigsen” an event with the world renowned automotive author Karl Ludvigsen, recent winner of the Dean Batchelor Award for his book “Porsche: Origin of the Species,” featuring his presentation and fellowship with other Porsche enthusiasts, April 19, 6-10 p.m.

“Castaway Critters 3rd Annual ‘Cool Cars for Cats and Canines’ Car Show,” an exhibition of exotic cars and sports cars featuring various vendors, sponsors, raffles and silent auctions, April 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Art Association of Harrisburg

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

“4 Artist Invitational Exhibit,” April 5-May 9.

### The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Art by Mary Ann Bradley, through April.

### Fenetre Gallery

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

“Defined by Design,” an exhibition of HACC graphic design students’ artwork, April 19-May 9; receptions, April 19, 6-8 p.m. and April 26, 11a.m.-noon.

### Gallery@Second

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

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

The artwork of Thom Glace and Ted Walke, April 18-June 1; reception, April 19, 6-9 p.m.

### Mangia Qui

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

The artwork of Brazilian artist Elide Hower and Zimbabwean artist Gerald Davidson, through April.

### National Civil War Museum

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

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

“Banners of the Fallen—Battle of Chancellorsville,” flag display in honor of those killed during the Battle of Chancellorsville, placed in front of the museum building, each flag representing one soldier killed during battle, April 27-May 6.

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

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

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

“Bob Hines: National Wildlife Artist,” an exhibit displaying illustrations created by the only officially designated staff artist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through Sept. 1.

“Sundays In the Gallery: Evenings of Celebration and Song,” a series of events featuring live musical performances in the Ned Smith Gallery, April 14, 21, 28.

### Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

“Since the River Spoke,” an exhibition featuring the prints of Shelley Thorstensen, through April 3.

“Student Honors Show 1 & 2,” April 8-May 8; receptions, April 18, 5:30-7 p.m., and May 2, 5:30-7 p.m.

### The State Museum of Pennsylvania

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

“Hannah Penn: blest with a strong judgment and excellent good sense,” an exhibit that features a unique collection of artifacts and items associated with Hannah and William Penn, through April 7.

“Personal Perspectives” an exhibit compiled of award-winning artwork by students from grades 7-12, through April 28.

“Where There Is Light” a special exhibition featuring photographs by Kevyn Bashore, sculpture and painting by Freiman Stoltzfus and glass sculptures by Through the Fire Glass Studio, Aspen Glass Studio and Katherman Glass Studio, through April 28.

“A Tribute to Nicholas Ruggieri,” an exhibit featuring the talents of this well-known Harrisburg artist, through April 28.

### The Susquehanna Art Museum

300 North St., Harrisburg  
(at the State Museum)  
sqart.org

“Course and Discourse,” a Doshi Gallery exhibit that pairs works by students and their professors from central Pennsylvania colleges and universities, through May 6.

### Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall

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

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

### Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar

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

“The Creative Sprouts Art Show,” featuring the art of youngsters 14 and under, through April 14

Paintings by Jess Juliana, April 16-May 12; reception April 19, 6-9 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

### The LGBT Center Gallery

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg

April 4: Women’s Group, Sexual Assault Awareness Month, 7-9 p.m.

April 12: Movie Night, 7 p.m.

April 22: Gender Variance Discussion Group, 6-8 p.m.

April 25: Central PA LGBT Aging Network, LGBT Travel, 6-8 p.m.

April 26: Open mic night hosted by Shaashawn Dial and Tiffany Hwang, 7-9 p.m.

April 27: “Shout It Out,” LGBT Youth Dance, noon-5 p.m.

### Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

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

April 1: Swing dance, starting at 6:30 p.m.

April 1: Midtown Writers Group, 7 p.m.

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

April 3, 10: Friends of Midtown Beautification Meeting, 6:15 p.m., Events Meeting, 6 p.m.

April 3: Healthy Eating and Living w/Ruth Seitz, 7 p.m.

April 4, 11, 18, 25: Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.

April 5, 12, 19, 26: Nathaniel Gadsden’s Writers Wordshop and Jump Street, Inc. present Poetry Night, 7 p.m.

April 6: Susquehanna Art Museum art class, 10 a.m.

April 6, 20: Book Club, middle school, 1 p.m.

April 7, 14, 21, 28: TED Talks, 1 p.m.

April 10, 21: Book Club, Sydney’s, 10 a.m.

April 15, 29: SERV 231 (Foundations of Service, Missions and Social Change), 6 p.m.

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

April 18: Book Club, Banned Books, 7 p.m.

April 19: TMI Improv, 6 p.m.

April 20: Book Club, Poison Pen, 5 p.m.

April 21: Midtown Writers Group, 2 p.m.

April 21: Book Club, LGBT, 7 p.m.

April 22: Book Club, Feminism Group, 7 p.m.

April 27: Cathleen Cody Lauer Poetry/Essay Talk, 2 p.m.

April 28: Book Club, Harrisburg Young Professionals, 2 p.m.

April 30: Art Kaleidoscope, 7 p.m.

### National Civil War Museum

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

“150th Spring Lecture Series” with noted historians:

April 6: Jeffery S. Prushakin, 1 p.m.

April 13: Jeffery Wert, 1 p.m.

April 20: Tom Huntington, 1 p.m.

April 27: Michael A. Riley, 1 p.m.

### Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

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

April 11: “The History of the Millersburg Ferry” a lecture about the last wooden stern-wheel paddle boat, 7 p.m.

April 27 and May 4: “Spring Bird Walks” morning walks lead by experienced bird watchers identifying the migrating birds of spring, 7:30 a.m.-noon.

### The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

sfmsfolk.org

April 7: Israeli dance and workshop w/Danny Pollock (Harrisburg JCC and the Movement Center)

### Whitaker Center

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

April 10: David Sedaris, 8 p.m.



## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

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

April 5: Voxology and Indian  
Summer Jars

April 6: Start Making Sense!  
w/The Great White Caps

April 10: March Fourth  
Marching Band

April 13: The Dirty Sweet

April 14: Jeffrey Foucault and  
The Cold Satellite

April 18: Yarn

April 20: Jah Works

April 25: Dopapod

April 27: Hip Pocket

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

April 1, 8, 10, 15, 22, 29:  
Chris Gassaway

April 2, 9, 12, 16, 23, 26, 30:  
Brandon Parsons

April 3, 24: Chelsea Caroline

April 4, 14, 28: Anthony Haubert

April 5, 17: Roy Lefever

April 6, 19: Noel Gevers

April 11, 25: Giovanni Triano

April 13, 18, 27: Jett Prescott

April 20: Ted Ansel

**Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz**  
717-540-1010  
cpfj.org

April 21: Kenton Alumni Band  
(The Forum)

**Gullifty's**  
1104 Carlisle Rd., Camp Hill  
717-761-6692  
gulliftys.net

April 5: Bullet Method

April 12: Avenging Autumn

April 13: HotWing Jones

**Fed Live**  
234 N 2nd St, Harrisburg  
717-525-8077  
fedlive.net

April 1: Wayne "The Train" Hancock,  
Patrick Sweaney

April 10: Brown Bird, Colebrook  
Road, Last Good Tooth

April 18: Generationals, Splashh

April 20: Jenny Owen Youngs,  
Sabrina Duke, Katy Glorioso

**Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra**  
The Forum (5th and Walnut St.)  
Harrisburg  
717-545-5527  
harrisburgsymphony.org

April 12-14: Symphonic Splendor  
April 27-28: Sci-Fi Feel the Force

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

April 19: Hershey Symphony  
("Tchaikovsky Spectacular")  
April 22: RAIN

**Hilton Harrisburg & Towers**  
1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-6000

April 5: First Friday Hilton Jazz

April 7: Steve Rudolph

April 21: Katie Rudolph

April 28: Katie Rudolph

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

April 2: TARTUFI  
w/You You Dark Forest

April 4: Funkbot and  
The Love Explosion

April 5: Aortic Valve

April 6: Hank and Cupcakes,  
Sine Delphi, American Roulette

April 11: Strangest of Places

April 12: Des Sera

April 13: The Dogs of Lust  
w/Testosteroso and Zip Casey

April 14: the Slackers

April 18: The Midtown Getdown  
w/ShimpBoat

April 20: Greatest Funeral Ever

April 25: The Woggles

April 27: Susan Giblin  
Foundation Fundraiser

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

April 13: Home Body, In Wilderness,  
Secret Secrets

April 14: Nicolía Wohns:  
Violin Showcase

April 25: Barren Girls

April 27: Jake Lewis/Widad

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

April 5: Jon Shain

April 6: Good News Café

April 12: Mike Vial & Lowly the  
Tree Ghost

April 13: Wes Hoke

April 14: Wisaal

April 19: The Vulcans

April 20: Jason Myles Goss

April 26: Chris Cernak

April 27: Jason Ager  
w/Keisha Slaughter

**Market Square Concerts**  
717-221-9599  
marketsquareconcerts.org

April 25: Four Nations Assemble  
(Whitaker Center)

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

April 4, 25: Greg Grasa

April 5, 19: Ben Brandt Band

April 11: Robinsons

April 12: Jeff Calvin

April 26: Sabrina Duke Band

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

"Sundays In the Gallery:  
Evenings of Celebration and Song,"  
April 14, 21, 28

**Stock's on 2nd**  
211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-233-6699  
stocksonsecond.com

April 13: Steve Swisher and  
Shea Quinn

**Suba Tapas Bar/Mangia Qui**  
272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358  
mangiaqui.com

April 5: Shine Delphi & Nathan  
Rivera

April 6: Wilhem McKay  
April 11: Steve Rudolph &  
special guest

April 12: Jessica Smucker

April 13: Mycenea Worley

April 19: Think Tank Trio

April 20: Brittany Opperman

April 25: Steve Rudolph

April 26: The Humblers

April 27: Angel Ocana

**The Susquehanna Folk  
Music Society**  
sfmsfolk.org

April 7: Tannahill Weavers  
(Camp Hill United Methodist  
Church)

April 13: Garnet Rogers (Fort  
Hunter)

April 21: Rory Block w/Shane Speal  
(Marketview Arts, York)

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

April 4: 2CELLOS

April 12: Dave Mason Acoustic Duo

April 19: B.B. King

April 27: Très Bonne Année  
("Back to Bandstand: A Trip Down  
Memory Lane")

## THE STAGE DOOR

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

April 5-6: Tom Simmons w/Jay Dee  
April 12-13: J. Chris Newberg w/Stu  
McCallsiter

April 19-20: Andy Woodhull  
w/Gilbert Lawand

**Harrisburg Comedy Zone**  
110 Limekiln Rd., New Cumberland  
717-920-3627  
harrisburgcomedyzone.com

April 5-6: Bob "The Polish  
Madman" Golub

April 12-13: Ian Gutoskie

April 19-20: Jose Sarduy

April 26-27: Mimi Gonzalez  
& Josh Phillips

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

April 12-14: "Romeo and Juliet"

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

April 25-May 5: "Proof"

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

April 6: "Voca People"  
April 8: "Theresa Caputo"

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

April 19-27: "Nunset  
Boulevard: The Nunset  
Hollywood Bowl Show"

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

April 12-May 4: "In the Next Room  
or the Vibrator Play"

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

April 1-10: "Desperate Affection"

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

April 6: "Cinderella"



# SCHOOL DAY DREAM

*New City School wants to give Harrisburg children an educational alternative—but first it needs a lift off the ground.*

BY DIANE MCCORMICK

What is the answer to Harrisburg's deeply indebted and low-performing schools? Some groups have proposed charter schools, which mostly have been rejected by the school board. Other parents send their children to a host of private schools. Yet others stick with city schools and hope for the best.

One church-affiliated group wants to give city residents another choice and, in the process, help Harrisburg's revitalization. It plans to start a Midtown school devoted to classical education, one open to impoverished families.

New City School could open in fall 2013 or 2014, depending on financing. It would start with younger grades, possibly pre-kindergarten through second, and add a grade in each following year. Based in space owned by historic Second City Church, Green and Verbeke streets, the Christian-based school would be open to students of all faiths.

Jedidiah Slaboda, pastor of Second City Church, called the pending school a "catalyst for renewal," meant to educate "future stewards of Harrisburg."

Congregants developed the idea to meet city needs without duplicating existing schools. The effort isn't meant to detract from city schools—saddled with low achievement rates and a deficit of \$12 million and climbing—but provide a quality option for families at all income levels, Slaboda said.

"I think it's going to take a long time to address the problems (of city schools)," he said. "So do we wait until those problems are addressed, or do we find other sources of income to educate the children of the city?"

New City School would offer a classical, liberal arts education emphasizing literacy and character development. By-laws require that 60 percent of students come from families in poverty.

Classical schools instill values and language skills that help students succeed in careers and as community leaders, said Christopher Perrin, Camp Hill, a classical education consultant and New City School board member. Classical

schools have started nationwide, but many charge tuition that low-income families can't afford, he said.

New City School would finance scholarships through state earned income tax credits, which allow businesses to divert tax payments to education. The school is modeled after the urban-based Logos Academy in York and the Oaks Academy in Indianapolis.

"If it is a really great education for some, why wouldn't we try to make it available for everybody?" said Perrin, who was the first head of school for Covenant Christian Academy in Susquehanna Township.

Second City Church's Verbeke Street complex includes a former school that still houses an after-school program but is otherwise vacant.

"How can we give this space back to the community?" Slaboda said. "We certainly don't need it as a congregation, but even if we did, there's certainly enough to share."

Organizers can open the doors when they've raised about \$100,000, said Perrin. EITC dollars can finance scholarships, but there are renovations to make and teachers to hire. So far, they've raised \$6,000 and "have a lot of people interested," he said. Fulton Bank stepped up with a substantial commitment, Slaboda said.

"We're willing to start with a couple of grades and grow," said Perrin.

Education would be tailored to city families, with a participatory school community of families, students, teachers and administrators.

"This would be a school in the city, for the city," said Slaboda. "Hopefully, partnering with what's good going on in the city and filling in a need where there's a lack in the city." **B**

*For more information, including donor opportunities, visit [www.newcityschoolharrisburg.org](http://www.newcityschoolharrisburg.org).*







## ARC OF A CAREER

*For Steel-High's golden girl, one last modest march to victory.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

**M**alia Tate-DeFrias misses on the first 3-pointer I witness during the first quarter of Steelton-Highspire's District 3-A Championship game against Halifax. She misses another one, and, when I look up at the Giant Center's scoreboard, 27-1 in favor of her Rollers, I understand her short lapse in concentration and form.

This sample of her game speaks nothing to her legendary, if not understated, success. Her 3,272 points to-date is good for third all-time in Pennsylvania women's high school basketball. She averages 35.2 points per game (fifth nationally) and shoots a ridiculous 52 percent from the field. And now her Rollers aim for their third Class A State Championship in a row.

The rest of the District Championship game is nothing to write home about, Steel-High winning the game by 49 points. Malia's mom, Jennifer states that she "didn't think it would be that close."

This kind of sports stratosphere is hard to find. And more impressive is how grounded and focused Malia appears on-and-off-the-court.

On-the-court, she's poised, reacts well to ball pressure, and her passing, overlooked because of her prolific scoring, is impressive, particularly a driving jump-pass she utilizes that would rile up most

coaches. This is because that dash of flair often results in a charge/turnover, but Malia is somehow able to avoid this contact. She's almost expressionless on the court, which may be conceived as aloofness, but you would be wrong, according to Coach "Chis," Malia's mentor since seventh grade.

Coach Jeffrey Chisolm shows up late to their Monday practice, and oddly inhabits a similar personality to that of Malia when I talk with him—reticent and quiet. Coaches can often have almost bipolar temperaments between their practice and game management, so I chalk this meeting up to a long season.

I attempt to create a courtesy call out of this one. But he slowly opens up, citing that he thinks Malia has exceeded in greatness to local legends like Ashley Langford and Jasmine Poole.

"Some people will say she scores a lot because it's 1-A. We played Harrisburg High; she dropped 54. When she steps on that court, she doesn't care who you are. Doesn't matter if you're 84."

Off the hardwood, Malia is humble and reserved, something Coach "Chis" says is the best part of Malia. "She's well-mannered and respects everyone."

She concisely sums up her strengths and weakness, which adds "self-aware" to her repertoire of characteristics. "I think I'm a good passer, and my

weaknesses...my left-hand and I need to get stronger."

Trying to chink her armor a little, I ask about her tattoos, half-hoping they were impulsive ink purchases. She points to behind her ear, where a black, two-leaved design is located.

"I have one leaf on my side for 1,000 points, two leaves for 2,000, and the tattoo here (near her shoulder) are the names of my two deceased grandmothers."

When asked about getting three leaves for exceeding 3,000, she says, "she's done with tattoos for now." The tattoos were touching and self-assured tributes to her success and who she owes her success to—her family.

No matter the outcome after this month's tour de force of PIAA championship basketball, her future scholastic and athletic career awaits her at Hampton University.

"I want to major in business/marketing or kinesiology, then work for either Under Armor or Nike."

When I ask her about the WNBA or playing in Europe, she kind of waves it off. Modest. No surprise there. **B**





# *In a Tight Spot*

— URBAN GARDENING: —  
SHORT ON SPACE, LONG ON CREATIVITY.

BY BARBARA TRAININ BLANK





## “THE LACK OF URBAN SPACE CAN BE COUNTERED BY VERTICAL GARDENING—SUCH AS TRELLISES FOR CLIMBING PLANTS, OR HANGING POTS.”

It's spring, and, for many people, thoughts begin to turn to gardening.

Even if you're within city limits with limited space, there's no reason not to grow vegetables or flowers.

“It's often overlooked how important gardening is to people in the city,” said Ray Davis, an avid gardener and agent with RE/MAX Realty. “A lot of us have gardens behind fences and barriers.”

His garden is an “outdoor space” with patio furniture, where he (and dog Bella) relaxes as often as possible. Davis planted everything there except the Japanese maple tree.

“I enjoy watching the ostrich ferns grow, and I have flower beds,” he said.

Ruth Consoli, a freelance landscape designer who often collaborates with Jeff Deitrick of EarthTone Hardscapes in New Cumberland, noted that the lack of urban space can be countered by vertical gardening—such as trellises for climbing plants, or hanging pots.

Products called wooley pockets can be used to hang plants on walls or other structures. You can also do terracing with planter boxes on a small paved area, Deitrick said.

“I had a customer with a small patio who built little beds around the edges and a fence around it,” Consoli added.

A little illusion doesn't hurt either when you have height but little width. Selecting flowers of paler, pastel-y, colors—white, purple and soft green—make a garden look more spacious, as opposed to a “hot” color like red or orange.

Imagination is key. “Regardless of the space or lack of it, you can make an interesting garden,” said Consoli.

The first thing to decide is whether you want edibles, flowers or plants—or a combination. Seth Maurer, of Seth Maurer Landscaping in Harrisburg, said that even a small space can be a “self-sustaining grocery store” of vegetables and herbs.

Within that spectrum, you'll have to choose between in-the-ground planting and container gardening. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. For example, the earth tends to retain more water and give a plant more room to grow, but some gardeners like the ability afforded by container gardening to pick up plants and move them around, like “rearranging a room every season,” as Davis put it.

“The choice depends on the site,” Maurer said. “My brother's girlfriend has a 15-by-15-foot patio covered with pavers. There's room for a fire pit or grill, tables and chairs, but none to plant in the ground. Container gardening is the way to go.”

One aficionado of container gardening is Bob Deibler, owner of the Bare Wall Gallery. “I do all container gardening, almost all in terra cotta. But they don't winter well. The new, cheaper plastic containers are wonderful, and now I've gone to Styrofoam; they're compressed and sturdy and light to carry.”

Recently he planted arbor vitae, an evergreen shrub that doesn't need a lot of light and is doing well. “We don't get a lot of sun in the space behind the store, so we can't raise marigolds or petunias.”

Deibler takes joy in the fact that a few plants can make a garden seem lush and full. “If something's not doing well, we can put it in the back, and put nice big plants in the front. We can showcase something in particular,” Deibler said.

Ann Rosenberg, a city resident who grew up in another urban environment, recalls her middle son, Geoffrey, wanting, as a child, to plant vegetables. Her initial response was that it would “take a lot of ground,” which the family didn't have.

“But we got hanging planters and shepherd hooks

and planted vegetables upside down 4-feet off the ground,” said Rosenberg. “We used plants rather than seeds to plant from, because seeds would have taken too long.”

The family chose cherry tomatoes instead of big ones, as well as hot peppers and bell peppers. “It was like a little side garden, not deeper than a big air conditioner condenser unit,” she laughed.

One regret is when her elder son, Ruby, wanted an apple tree, she told him there would be no room. “We could have done it,” she realized later. “We could have grown dwarf fruit in pots.”

It's self-evident to select the right plants for the area—in terms of moisture, drainage and sunlight. A general caution is not to “overplant,” if you don't want “overgrown,” Maurer advised. “For example, people may buy four gold mop cypresses, which are 6-by-6 inches (each), and plant four in a row. The following year, the plant will be 4-feet-by-4-feet, and, a few years later, 12-by-12.”

You have to choose plants that can weather the winter and container materials such as fiberglass or plastic, for the same reason.

New to gardening? Start small and simple. If you tend to forget to water plants, consider a drip irrigation system and set a timer or use rainwater harvesting.

“The key is low maintenance,” suggested Deitrick.

Gardening is as much work as you want to make it. “I put in a few hours every week,” said Davis. “It's therapeutic.”

It's easy these days to get good advice—the Internet, commercial garden centers or freelancers like Consoli. Get a ticket to the HYP Annual Home Tour in May, visit the Pennsylvania Garden Expo or Hershey Gardens, or try one of Dauphin County's Community Gardens. They're all great places to get ideas for your tight urban plot. **E**

*Photo on opposite page taken outside The Bare Wall Gallery, 712 Green St., Harrisburg.*



# TAKE THE FIELD

*The crack of the bat, the roar of the crowd . . . it's time for baseball!*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA



**T**he grass is cut, the lines are striped and a young, starry-eyed hurler is about to throw the first heater of the new season.

Or . . . the beer is flowing, the grill is fired up and friends are talking and laughing at the newly redesigned First Base Plaza.

Or . . . it's bobblehead night, the Cowboy Monkeys are in town and the fireworks are about to shoot off.

Maybe you attend a Harrisburg Senators game for the baseball—or for the socializing—or for the family-friendly promotions. Regardless, the long winter is finally done, and the home team is set to take the field against the Bowie Baysox on Thursday, April 4.

Like many of you, I hike across the Walnut Street Bridge for all three reasons, though, as a baseball fan, I tend to focus on the balls and strikes.

Over the past few seasons, baseball nerds like me have been in heaven, as some of the best young prospects in a generation have made their way through Metro Bank Park. So, what could possibly beat watching potential Hall of Famers like Stephen Strasburg and Bryce Harper in the infancy of their careers?

How about watching potential stars like Anthony Rendon or Brian Goodwin?

Fortunately, the Washington Nationals farm system remains stocked with players on their way up to the big leagues, and their substantial talents will be on display for at least some of the year on City Island.

“We’re looking really good this year,” said Senators Manager Matt LeCroy, adding that the team is rich with Major League prospects. “This is probably the youngest group of players in Harrisburg for a long time.”

Youth, speed, ambition—these qualities should keep the baseball exciting through the year and, with a little luck, into another post-season.

In addition, Harrisburg always benefits from its proximity to D.C., which means that we often see genuine Major League players on rehab assignments from injuries. Do you think that, years from now, I’ll still be telling the story of

how I saw Strasburg playing in Harrisburg after elbow surgery? You bet I will.

But maybe you’re not in it primarily for the action on the field. That’s fine with team President Kevin Kulp, who has spent the off-season planning ever-better ways to attract folks who don’t attend primarily for the baseball.

A few years ago, Metro Bank Park underwent a significant upgrade. Now, Kulp is tweaking the plan, this year redesigning the First Base Plaza, the area behind the stands along first base.

The plaza now has a stage, an open-air grill and new tables, umbrellas and landscaping. Some of the most popular concession stands, formerly beneath the

stands, will relocate to this area.

Kulp expects the plaza to be a new place for people to meet and socialize, enjoy a freshly grilled hot dog and a beer, and where bands will perform before games—sometimes even during play.

“In the off-season, we did a lot of meeting and discussing what works and what doesn’t, so we can make the experience new and different and more exciting,” said Kulp.

For families, the Senators’ promotions are always a big part of the experience. Kulp said the team will hold more promotional events this year than ever before. Almost every game will feature a reason (other than the baseball, of course) to visit the stadium.

Giveaways (e.g. Bobbleheads, T-shirts, posters, jerseys) will be held many times

per month. Do you prefer your promotions on the livelier side? On 16 nights, fireworks will cap off the evening. Come July, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders will shimmy into the stadium and, yes, boys and girls, the Cowboy Monkeys will be back, riding bareback on a few doggies.

Plan now for an exciting year at the stadium. And, if you see me, say hi. I’ll be the guy actually watching the game. **B**



*Anthony Rendon*



*Brian Goodwin*

*For more information on what’s in store for this season and to order tickets, visit [www.senatorsbaseball.com](http://www.senatorsbaseball.com).*





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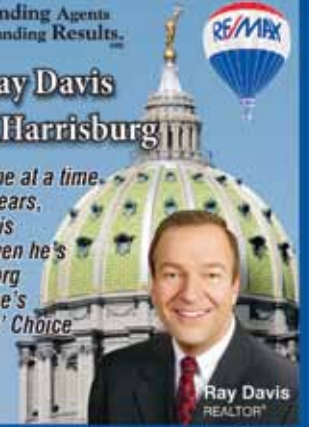
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# SWEET DREAMS

*Patience, reassurance can help calm night fears.*

BY DR. DEEPA SEKHAR

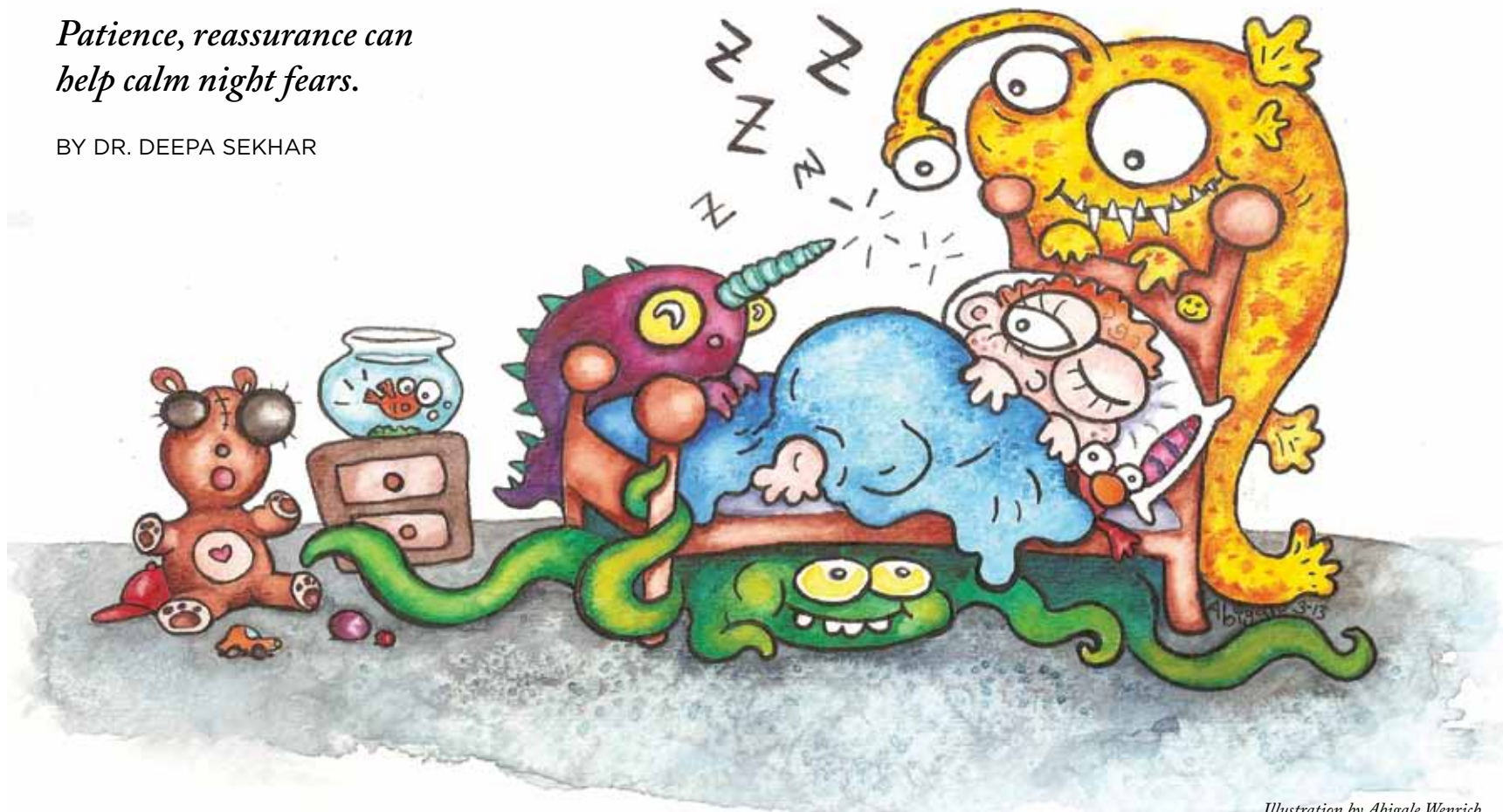


Illustration by Abigale Wenrich

Most of us remember the monsters under the bed and in the closet that would keep us up long after our parents kissed us goodnight. To this day, I distinctly remember my nightmare of being chased all night by a wolf, waking just as it was about to bite my leg. Sleep disturbances can cause stress for children and parents. When reviewing sleep during a well-child checkup, parents will often ask about bad dreams.

Sleep typically occurs in several stages over the course of the night. The rapid eye movement (REM) stage is when dreaming occurs. Though both often-labeled “bad dreams,” night terrors and nightmares are actually two slightly different types of sleep disturbances common in childhood that occur during different phases of the sleep cycle.

Night terrors occur during the first two to three hours of sleep as a child transitions from non-REM to REM sleep. Night terrors typically occur in children 4 to 12 years old, though they have been reported in children as young as 18 months old. During a night terror, a child may shout, scream in distress and sit up. Parents will report their child was sweating and breathing fast with a rapid heartbeat.

Parents are especially distressed as they are unable to calm their children down. In fact, it is best not to try and wake your child from sleep during a night terror as this can be more disorienting and agitating and prolong the episode. Episodes typically last 10 to 20 minutes and, after this time, the child usually calms down and goes back to sleep. Parents can be reassured that children will not remember the event in the morning as they were in deep sleep and there are no mental images to recall. For parents, the best thing to do is to wait patiently and be sure your child does not get hurt thrashing around.

Night terrors seem to run in families. About 80 percent of children with night terrors have a family member who had night terrors or sleepwalking (another childhood sleep disturbance). Children who are excessively tired, sick or in a new environment may be more likely to have night terrors.

Maintaining a consistent, predictable bedtime routine may reduce episodes. Less often, medical issues such as obstructive sleep apnea, gastric reflux and certain seizures may present similarly to night terrors, though your doctor can typically exclude these things with a basic medical history.

Nightmares occur during the REM phase of sleep, so they tend to happen in the early hours of the morning. Nightmares peak in school-age children, though even older kids and adults may have occasional nightmares. In contrast to night terrors, when a child wakes from a nightmare, the images in the dream are very fresh and real. After waking from a nightmare, a parent’s presence can provide security and calm. In these cases, parents can affirm that the nightmare is over and everything is okay. Explain that everyone has bad dreams and it is natural to be scared sometimes. Help your child to transition back to sleep by turning on a night light, offering a favorite stuffed toy or doing some “magic.” A babysitter of ours suggested a spray bottled filled with “magic” water and prominently labeled “Monster Spray” for emergency use in the middle of the night.

Nightmares tend to reflect things a child is experiencing. They may be a way for the mind to process worries and concerns encountered during the day. For example, scary movies and books may trigger nightmares. However, they may also occur following trauma, injury or a natural disaster. In select cases, referral to a therapist for children experiencing nightmares as part of post-traumatic stress may be warranted.

The good news about both night terrors and nightmares is that they naturally tend to resolve over time. Even better is that the majority of them can be handled with the best medicine parents provide: reassurance, hugs and kisses. Sweet dreams! **B**



*Dr. Deepa Sekhar is a pediatrician at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.*





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