



# THE HILLTONE

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

March 2019

## Co-Presidents' Message

By Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey

Snowdrops have emerged along the driveway—a welcome sign of spring—and we're looking forward to seeing Hiltonia burst into bloom.

We've spent the winter weeks since the January Association meeting checking in with officers, new committee chairs, and the board to discuss goals and responsibilities for the months ahead. Similarly, we've added civic meetings (City Council, CPAC, TCCA) to our own schedules. Hiltonia has long been well represented in that regard—many thanks to each and every neighbor who attends!—but we're eager to strengthen our own civic connections.

We're also attempting to broaden our support of local nonprofits by attending fundraisers for the Historical Society, I Am Trenton, and the Capitol Philharmonic. Our first priority is the Hiltonia Association, of course, and we look forward to the March meeting (Tuesday, March 12, 7 PM). John and Jeannie Weakliem (12 Hilvista Blvd.) have graciously volunteered to host the meeting, which we'll kick off with guests Yoshi Manale, along with Shing-Fu Hsueh and Kristin Epstein from the Water Works.

It was inspiring to see such a large turnout at the January meeting, and we hope to continue to gather in large numbers moving forward. We are eager to get to know residents we haven't yet had the chance to spend time with, to learn about their concerns and hear their personal stories about this special neighborhood we all call home.

Avenue, was a volunteer then at Urban Promise, and it was she who suggested we choose them as one of our recipients.

Therefore, I am bringing your attention to one of their endeavors, a quilt of students' illustrations about a book they read. It is now on display at Jefferson School, and previously had been hanging at the Trenton Public Library downtown.

The students had a year-long involvement with Australia, learning its geography and reading an engaging book titled *Mystery at the Great Barrier Reef*. One of our volunteers is a quilter, and she led in the development and culmination of this amazing quilt.

Urban Promise, based at Trinity Cathedral on West State Street, is alive, vibrant, and thriving!

## Join Us at the Easter Egg Hunt

All are welcome to join us at 103 Buckingham Ave. to celebrate Easter with our annual Easter Egg Hunt! Feel free to bring your children's friends and other family members. We look forward to seeing you April 13<sup>th</sup> (a flyer will be forthcoming with more details).



Questions? Please contact Kathleen Coughlin at [kbcoughlin@gmail.com](mailto:kbcoughlin@gmail.com) (856-397-3799).

## First Friday Flamingo Socials

Won't you consider hosting an upcoming first Friday Flamingo Social? Our potlucks are really fun and are a great way to unwind with friends and neighbors on a Friday evening. If you're interested in hosting, please let Lily know ASAP (215-534-7739), since she is building the schedule for the rest of 2019.



## Urban Promise Quilt

By Patricia Flores

Urban Promise, the Trenton inner-city student mentoring/ after-school homework program, was a recipient of Hiltonia's Worthy Projects financial support in 2017. Maria Spillman, formerly of Renfrew



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## Happy to be Here!!

By Lori & Mark Emmerson

My husband and I moved from Monmouth Junction to 8 Kensington Avenue, formerly the Damron homestead, in October 2018. I am a middle school principal and Mark works in the technology industry as a national director of sales.

When we decided to purchase a new home, we began searching Zillow and attending open houses in various local towns to get a feel for the type of community in which we



wanted to live. One day, while perusing Zillow, we noticed a few gorgeous homes. When we saw they were located in Trenton we were pretty surprised and very curious. We had no idea that beautiful, serene neighborhoods with unique historic homes existed in Trenton. We immediately began to research the City and the neighborhoods to learn more.

The more we explored, the more excited we became! We realized pretty quickly that this was where we wanted to live. Easy access to the park, towpath, the historic sights, and everything else the City offers, along with the neighborhood association, were so appealing.

We couldn't be happier with our decision! We are enjoying getting to know our wonderful neighbors and taking advantage of all the activities offered. The sense of community we feel in Hiltonia is exactly what we were hoping for and more!

## Ruby's Rescue

By Dawn Coluccio

On a cold January Wednesday evening when temperatures were dropping to 22°, my husband Anthony and I spotted a little dog cowering in a neighbor's vestibule. Knowing any pet deserves better than sleeping on the streets, we immediately stopped our vehicle and cautiously approached her. The dog was so frightened and ran, but we stayed and waited on my neighbor's porch. Slowly but surely the dog steadily crept closer to us. Fortunately we had dinner leftovers to share with our new friend. She quickly gobbled up the food, sat closer to us but wouldn't let us touch her.

We knew we had to find the rightful owner and get her to a warm place. I called Bill Merz and within minutes he sent out an email to Hiltonia as well as the surrounding neighborhoods. But we still needed help getting the dog.

Next, I called Marc Leckington and told him the story. He quickly walked down the street with a pet carrier and treats (and a beer, lol). In the meantime I ran home to get blankets, dog food, and water, but we were unsuccessful in capturing the dog. Feeling defeated, we left the shelter, food, and water for the dog and returned home.

Anthony and I couldn't bear the thought of this sweet creature being left alone but luckily another concerned neighbor, Kathi Eckert, replied to the Hiltonia email. Kathi was more than willing to help us try again. With gentle coaxing and much patience Kathi and Anthony were successful in safely securing the little dog. They affectionately named her Ruby for her bright red eyes.



Kathi fostered Ruby for two nights. With her nurturing and care, Ruby was quickly beginning to trust. That same night we began blasting all social media outlets trying to find her owner and putting out awareness of this lost little dog. The following day I called local authorities and Kathi took Ruby to get scanned for a microchip. Alas, no microchip!

As the days passed we didn't hear from anyone who knew Ruby. Fast forward, our neighbor Paulette Ayres spoke up to say her daughter, Tira, would be interested in adopting Ruby. By Friday Ruby was a different dog after some rest, nourishment, and warmth. She was friendly, playful, and happy to interact. So we quickly arranged a meeting at Kathi's house and it was love at first sight! We knew Ruby was going to fit perfectly into her new home. Ruby is now loved, safe, and secure in her forever home with her new "Mom" Tira.

Much thanks to all who called and inquired about Ruby. We couldn't have done it without the love and support of caring Hiltonians....what a wonderful neighborhood we live in!



.....to Kathleen and Brennan Coughlin for providing their generous assistance with the printing of past issues of *The Hilltone*, and for all their hard work in sponsoring our children's activities!!

....to Bill and Regina Merz for hosting the March "First Friday Flamingo" social.

....to all the neighbors who provided content for this issue !!

.....to Barry Giordano and Joanne Rounsaville, who hosted our annual Holiday Party in their home.

....and to our **EXTREMELY AWESOME** proofreaders, Terri O'Prey, Margaret Mason, and Lily Knezevich!!!



## Notes from the March Association Meeting

Our guest speakers provided vital information, listened to concerns, and answered questions from the many neighbors in attendance. Yoshi Manale, the mayor's chief of staff, and Dr. Shing-Fu Hsueh, Director, Trenton Department of Water and Sewer, updated us on the programs and policies currently being worked on within their respective departments.

After his remarks, Dr. Hsueh provided us with contact numbers at TWW if you have any questions. For an emergency, call 609-989-3055. His direct office number is 609-989-3208. And to the primary question of whether our water is safe to drink—he responded, absolutely! He drinks our tap water with confidence.

### Signage is Coming Soon

By Jeannie Weakliem

In an effort to curb drug dealing and other crimes in Hiltonia, the membership has passed a motion to purchase new signs for the neighborhood. The signs have been ordered and will be installed throughout our area. This should hopefully deter some of the ongoing drug distribution activity that has been observed, as well as other crime in our neighborhood.



### Announcing the new "Curb Appeal" Committee

By Mike Ranallo

The idea behind the Hiltonia Beautification Committee is simple. What can we do to make Hiltonia even more beautiful? We want to enhance, restore and maintain the appearance of Hiltonia by working with volunteer neighbors and partnering with the City to hopefully assist with items that we cannot accomplish ourselves.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer and suggestions are always appropriate. If there is an area of the neighborhood that needs attention, or a thought you have that will improve the appearance of Hiltonia, please make the suggestion. We look forward to making Hiltonia as beautiful as it can be. Thank you for the opportunity!

### Trenton Psychiatric Hospital: Strengthening Ties

By Terri O'Prey

Hiltonians were chilled on January 31, both by the 19° weather and by news of a prisoner's escape from Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. The Google group was abuzz with updates and reports gleaned from the seemingly random official notifications about the escape. Crisis was averted, but the situation itself was a stark reminder of the "in the dark" nature of our relationship with TPH.

Mike Ranallo volunteered to reach out to TPH to set up a meeting to voice resident concerns and discuss ways to strengthen ties between the hospital and Hiltonia. Shortly thereafter, Mike, Paul Perez, and Dennis Wendell traveled to TPH to meet with Michelle Senni, Public Information Officer, and Fred Conti, Director of Public Safety and Security. The meeting was a positive experience.

TPH is very interested in strengthening ties with Hiltonia, and the group discussed various ways of doing so. Beyond improving notifications, TPH is willing to have representatives attend a neighborhood meeting to provide information and answer questions. Other possibilities include arranging TPH tours and encouraging attendance at monthly TPH board meetings. Dennis is coordinating with Michelle on details for an April special association meeting—stay tuned for details!

## County to Host March 30 Event

TRENTON—The Mercer County Improvement Authority (MCIA) will host a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Disposal Day on Saturday, March 30, for County residents who would like to recycle common residential chemical wastes or used electronics.

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the [John T. Dempster Fire School at 350 Lawrence Station Road in Lawrence](#), rain or shine. While no registration is necessary, the event is open to Mercer County residents only, and attendees will need to show proof of residency, such as a driver's license. No commercial or industrial waste will be accepted. For more information, [click here](#).

To access the January 8th minutes of the last association meeting, go to:

<http://hiltoniaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/03/2019.01.08.Minutes.pdf>



## Restore Trenton! A Grant Program

By Dennis Wendell

We learned about this grant program from a 2018 *Hilltone* article and decided to apply to help support repairs to our slate roof. We turned to our fellow Hiltonians for contractor recommendations—thanks, Candice Brearley and Mike Ranallo!—and soon had the pleasure of meeting Don Still, expert on all things slate. A third-generation slate man, Don lost no time assessing what our roof needed and what it would take to carry out the repairs. We submitted our application and then began the long wait. A couple of months later, we arrived home after a particularly hectic workday to a letter notifying us we'd been approved for a grant. The entire process that followed went smoothly, and we celebrated its conclusion by attending the annual Stop the Wrecking Ball fundraiser.

The Trenton Historical Society website provides a lot of information about the program (<http://trentonhistory.org/restore-trenton-historic-property-rehabilitation-grant-program/>). A few highlights: the property must be a residential property located within Trenton city limits and be at least 50 years old. Preference is given to properties owned by Trenton residents and located in a historic district or those listed as an individual property on city, state, or national registers of historic places. Funding is limited to exterior projects and may include, but is not limited to, rehabilitation, restoration, and major repairs (but not ongoing maintenance) of architectural details and features. Awards range between \$500 to \$3000, and applicants are responsible for complying with all city, state, and federal requirements for permits and approval. Projects must be completed within 12 months of the award.

If we hadn't learned about this program, we might not have paid the necessary attention to our roof before the repairs it needed became major and costly. We consider ourselves fortunate to be in a community where residents are so willing to share information and collectively improve our neighborhood. If you have a home and project that meet the grant's requirements, we absolutely recommend looking into the program!

## Calendar of Events

**March 21:** City Council Public Meeting; 5:30 PM, City Hall; 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month

**March 28 and April 25:** Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC) meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month from 6-7 PM at the Hermitage Police Substation (Hermitage & Artisan Avenues)

**April 5:** First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA

**April 11:** TCCA meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month)

**April 13:** Easter Egg Hunt, details to come later on a flyer

**April ??** Public Information Meeting with Trenton Psychiatric, TBA

**May 14:** Tuesday, General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, TBA

## Rules and Regs: Property Ordinances

By Lily Knezevich

Below is a list of ordinances that are important responsibilities of residents and homeowners in Hiltonia. Please observe them, since the city inspectors will issue citations for violations if they are noticed or reported. These ordinances help preserve the appearance of our neighborhood and the value of our properties.

### Vehicles

1. Vehicles cannot be on front/side yards (grass), unless in an enclosed garage or behind the front building line.
2. Boats (except for canoes and boats under 20 feet in length) cannot be stored in the open for over one week, except within the rear yard at least 3 feet from any adjoining property line.
3. No recreational vehicle or automobile trailer can be stored in the open for over one week except in the rear yard, at least 3 feet from any adjoining property line.
4. Vehicles that are used for business purposes may not be parked on any private property between the hours of 8:00 PM and 6:00 AM except in garages or behind the front building line.
5. Inoperable motor vehicles should not be stored on private property for more than three weeks, except in closed garages.

### Fences

1. Houses on corner lots have **two** front yards. So the rules about front yards apply to both.
2. Fences (or masonry walls) are not permitted in front yards in front of the building line.
3. Fences (and masonry walls) that are behind the front building line must comply with the following:
  - a. Cannot be more than 6 feet in height
  - b. No barbed or razor wire can be used
  - c. Some fences that were in place when the ordinances were passed have been grandfathered.



## Membership Announcement

By Dr. Donnie R. Johnson

Hello Hiltonia Family, I am happy to introduce myself as your new membership chairperson! My name is Dr. Donnie R. Johnson and I have been a homeowner in this neighborhood since November 2006. I'm excited about serving as your membership chair! I look forward to getting out this spring and encouraging you to join our historical neighborhood association. Remember, *Together Everyone Achieves More!! GO TEAM!!* See you soon!

### FYI

Remember that if you are a resident of Hiltonia it's easy to become a member of the Hiltonia Association. Whether you own or rent, your annual dues are merely \$15.00 per adult in your household. You get a voice on all proposals, motions, and activities of the Association. It's your dues that pay for National Night Out, our social events, charitable donations, Worthy Projects, and children's events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party.

Dues follow the calendar year, and can be submitted to our membership chair, Dr. Donnie Johnson at 1502 Stuyvesant Ave., or to our treasurer, Barry Giordano at 123 Renfrew Ave.

You can download a 2019 membership form at: <http://hiltoniaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/02/2019.Membership.pdf>

Thanks to these households whose dues are current for 2019.

We encourage you to join them!

<u>BUCKINGHAM</u>			<u>CORNWALL</u>			<u>RENFREW</u>		
2	107	201	11	104		7	101	201
9	108	205	15	109		8	108	207
10	109		17	123		9	109	212
11	112		19	137		10	119	216
13	116		25			11	122	218
15	121					13	123	
	124							
	128							
<u>CADWALADER</u>			<u>KENSINGTON</u>			<u>STUYVESANT</u>		
3	113		1	109	205	1404	1445	
7	117		8	111	213	1502	1511	
13	119		16	112	217			
15	123		17	116		<u>GLENWOOD</u>		
	125			119		40		
	127			120		<u>HILVISTA</u>		
				121		12	18	44

## 2019 Hiltonia Association Officers

**Co-Presidents:** Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey, 7 Renfrew Ave. (732-996-6370; 732-996-6369)

**1st Vice President:** Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

**2nd Vice President:** Ali Wilson, 111 Kensington Ave. (609-331-5122)

**Treasurer:** Barry Giordano, 123 Renfrew Ave. (609-575-8705)

**Recording Secretary:** Margaret Mason, 3 Cadwalader Dr. (609-656-0203)

**Corresponding Secretary:** Chrystal Miles, 9 Buckingham Ave. (609-575-1366)

**Immediate Past-President:** Lily Knezevich, 207 Renfrew Ave. (215-534-7739)

### 2019 Chairs

**Adult's Social:** Lori Emmerson, 8 Kensington Ave. (908-256-4816)

**Children's Social:** Kathleen Coughlin, 205 Kensington Ave. (856-397-3799)

**Civic Committee:** Paulette Ayres, 8 Renfrew Ave. (609-695-4656), and Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

**Communications:** Kathi Eckert, 40 Glenwood Ave. (609-731-1705)

**Hospitality:** Georgia Wallar, 2 Buckingham Ave. (609-695-8711)

**Membership:** Dr. Donnie R. Johnson, 1502 Stuyvesant Ave. (609-943-2895)

**Publicity Committee:** Linda Reid, 212 Renfrew Ave. (609-394-2314)

**Welcome Wagon:** VACANCY

**Worthy Projects:** Maureen & Jacques Lebel, 25 Cornwall Ave. (609-218-5124)

## Email Distribution & Opting-Out of the Printed Newsletter

Please consider "opting-out" of the printed form of *The Hilltone*. Please send a note from your preferred email to [kathi325@gmail.com](mailto:kathi325@gmail.com) with your name, address, and phone with your wishes (email only or print only). **We will continue to distribute it in printed format if you so choose**, but we will need your name and address to compile a list of print recipients. Thanks!!



## Hiltonia Book Club: Educated

By Terri O'Prey

Members—including a few new book fans—met at 7 Renfrew on January 13 for Idaho-inspired dishes and lively discussion about Tara Westover's acclaimed memoir. Between sips of winter punch and wine and bites of a truly impressive spread—including potato soup, sweet potato chili and cornbread, funeral potatoes, green salad, jello salad, biscuits, fried chicken, pork chops, applesauce, pound cake with whipped cream and peaches, and chocolate chip pumpkin cookies—we chatted about the absolute horrors of Tara's life growing up in the dangerously restricted environment her mentally ill father created and her mother enabled. It was hard to read about Tara's world, one in which formal medical care, schooling, and the government itself were mistrusted to a fanatical degree. Lively discussion ensued about the observation that Tara escaped one insular environment for another (academia). The consensus was that the book was gripping but heavy, and we soon broke into suggestions for the next read. Thanks to all who made this gathering one to remember, and welcome to new members Emelia, Lori, Nate, and Priyanka!

Next up: *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult, March 10 at 5:00 PM, 213 Kensington (home of Maris Williams). The menu will follow a southern influence. New members are welcome, so please contact Terri O'Prey ([taoprey@gmail.com](mailto:taoprey@gmail.com)) if you'd like to join the fun.

## Tara Westover's Grandma-over-in-town's Chocolate Chip Pumpkin Cookies

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 10 minutes

The author's grandmother's recipe was posted for book clubs and readers to enjoy. Terri's notes: *This is a weird recipe, but the unique flavors of these cake-like cookies were a hit with some of us!*

2 eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
2 cups semi-sweet chocolate morsels

### Ingredients:

5 cups flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons salt  
2 teaspoons ground nutmeg  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
2 teaspoons ground allspice  
1 cup butter  
3 cups sugar  
3 ½ cups canned pumpkin

### Instructions:

1. Heat oven to 375° F.
2. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, and spices in a medium bowl. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar together until well blended. Add pumpkin, egg, and vanilla. Mix until combined. Stir in flour mixture. Fold in chocolate morsels. Drop by teaspoons onto ungreased cookie sheet.
3. Bake 11-12 minutes or until edges are firm. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

## Worthy Projects

By Jacques & Maureen Lebel

As readers of the last few issues of The Hilltone are well aware, Hiltonia's 2018 Worthy Projects effort succeeded in assisting two local non-profits to provide their services to the residents of Trenton. The Association agreed to provide matching funds of up to \$250 for each project (The Trenton Children' Chorus and Passage Theatre Company) to be used in matching donations from Hiltonia residents on a \$1 to \$1 basis. Thanks to the largess of Hiltonia residents, the projects received \$683.00 and \$643.00 respectively.

We are now at the beginning stage of Hiltonia's 2019 Worthy Projects. Last year's process culminated in funds being sent to awardees in December, and this seemed a perfect time of year for such a gift. The plan is to repeat that timing, so for now we are putting together a list of potential recipient projects. While not a required element, worthy projects where one or more Hiltonia residents are involved (as staff members, volunteers, clients, or advocates) seem a nice fit.

Anyone wishing to suggest a possible 2019 Hiltonia Worthy Projects recipient organization (or project) is invited to send a nomination e-mail to [drmlebel@gmail.com](mailto:drmlebel@gmail.com). A brief statement of what the project does and why Hiltonia should help out financially would be appreciated.

To access the links in this newsletter go to our association website. You can download this newsletter issue at:

<http://hiltoniaassociation.org/the-hilltones-1998-thru-2019/>