



THE HILLTONE

Welcome to Donna's Little Free Library (LFL) By Patricia Flores

The library has been moved from 117 Buckingham, to the corner of Renfrew and Glenwood, thanks to the assistance of Gil Varnes on Kensington, and his workers. I wished to see this community service continue after the passing of Donna Garcia, so to keep Donna's memory alive we have re-named it in her honor. She was attentive to all who stopped by, and strove to keep it well stocked for both children and adults.



Curious about how this marvel began, I googled and came up with these facts. The first LFL was planned in 2009 when Todd H. Bol designed and built the inaugural model of a one room school house in his hometown, Hudson, Wisconsin. The concept took shape as he was thinking about how he could memorialize and honor his mother, who had been a schoolteacher and an avid lifelong reader.

Todd personally built and gifted 30 LFL structures to family and friends during the first year of its existence. As the libraries multiplied and spread, so did the national media attention. Thus Todd launched what would become a global book-sharing movement.

Today, in 2019, there are 90,000 registered libraries in more than 90 countries world-wide. Donna's library is registered and has a plaque showing her library's registration number. You will see it when you use the library.

Their mission statement is: Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization that inspires a love of reading, builds community, and sparks creativity by fostering neighborhood book exchanges around the world.

I agree with this statement; it is my dream to inspire a love of reading in both young and old, and that by sharing books we will further build on our community. Several neighbors have already dropped by to deliver books for restocking the library. Please note that it is better to take a book, than to return a book. If you have no book to replace, don't worry! Others are donating and the LFL will never run out of books!! STOP. LOOK. TAKE. ENJOY.



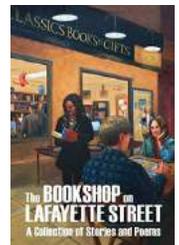
Hiltonia Neighbor Is Published By Eric Maywar

Area writers have published *The Bookshop on Lafayette Street*, a book featuring stories and poems about bookstores and a love of books. Everything that you love about bookstores is in the collection: books, the sense of wonder and discovery, the cozy clutter, idiosyncratic book lovers, and the feeling that you are in a magic haven buttressed against the cruelties of the world.

Not long ago, Pulitzer-Prize winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa was working on an epic poem and part of it took place at Classics Bookstore in Trenton. Independently, I was working on some flash fiction that also took place at Classics Bookstore. We bumped into each other (at Classics) and decided to collaborate on a collection of poems and stories that all take place at our favorite bookstore.

"We thought a collection of excellent work with a shared setting—and a shared love of bookstores and the people in them—might be a worthy project. We reached out to some of our favorite writers and artists to make it happen."

If you ever wanted to pull a book from the bookshelf and open a hidden passage way or if you ever wanted the bookseller to lock you in the bookstore overnight, this collection is for you. There is a story about the five greatest bookstores of all time, another about a woman who brings her date to a bookshop to see how he handles himself around books, and another about the ghosts of books burnt in book burnings. There is a play about the most annoying customer in the world, a story about the bookseller and the troll, and a story about a boy who rode on the tops of trains and what that meant.



Contributors include Ilene Dube, Jeff Edelstein, Barry Gross, John Gummere, Yusef Komunyakaa, Doc Long, Eric Maywar, Leon Rainbow, Jackie Reinstedler, Nancy Scott, Thomas Webster, and David Lee White.



Co-Presidents' Message



It's been a busy fall in Hiltonia, filled with the usual Association social activities (minus the carefully planned children's Halloween party, which fell on a seriously unpredictable weather day), board and membership meetings, committee efforts, and a groundswell of civic engagement inspired by passions on all sides of issues affecting this neighborhood we all call home.

Becky Taylor's Cadwalader Park Projects Committee achieved two major milestones: restoring the pathway into the park near Cadwalader and Glenwood all the way to the bridge and removing dozens of old metal stakes encircling the trees lining the pathway. We're looking forward to following Becky's lead in setting additional project goals and hope to see new and familiar faces at future cleanups. There's nothing quite like digging, raking, and unearthing buried treasure in the good company of fellow Hiltonians—and recently with volunteers from Trenton Central High!

We also had fun pulling together objects for the Hiltonia mantel now on display at Morven's Festival of Trees. See page 3 for Terri's article on that project.

Hiltonians filled an entire table at the TCCA awards last month. This event, which recognizes civic engagement, was a celebration of positive efforts to improve life in our city. It was our first time attending, and our first visit to the Ambassador, and we enjoyed the sparkling atmosphere, good eats, and friendly faces from all over town.

Along with the sunny side of civic activity were some topics that inspired passionate pros and cons in the neighborhood. It would be foolish to assume that we could—or should—have unanimous viewpoints on all issues. What's vital is that voices are heard and all sides considered. We strive as leaders of the Association to provide information, coordinate with City officials, and provide open forums for discussion. Please continue to make us aware of issues that affect Hiltonia (hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com is the best way to reach us), and remember that our general membership meeting agendas always include new business (an opportunity to raise them in person).

We expect to kick off 2020 with the annual Winter Party, set for January 18 at the home of Barry Giordano and Joanne Rounsaville. Full details and the party flyer will follow. We'll also ring in the new

year with a special committee exploring the porchfest idea brought to the November membership meeting by fellow Trentonian Bill Valocchi. This could be a wonderful summer event, and we're grateful to Jeannie Weakliem for heading up the committee.

Last, but not least, it's time to renew membership or join the Association for the first time. See the link on page 6 for the 2020 membership form. Dues remain the same, and they support children's social events, the Garden Party, Winter Party, National Night Out, Worthy Projects, publication of *The Hilltone*, and more.

Wishing happy holidays to all,
Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey

Recycling Uncommon Objects, Think Beyond the Bucket

Did you know that you can recycle uncommon items such as holiday lights, beauty products and even eyeglasses? You can recycle so much more than just paper and plastic!

The Mercer County Planning Department under the direction of Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes has created *Beyond the Bucket*, a resource guide to recycling uncommon objects. This guide offers suggestions for the disposal of a variety of items that cannot be recycled through Mercer County curbside collection.

Beyond the Bucket looks to empower Mercer County residents to reduce the trash that will end up in landfills and, instead, make personal choices that will improve our community and the environment.



Take a look at *Beyond the Bucket* and learn more about the uncommon items you can recycle, the wide array of recycling programs offered in Mercer County and beyond, how to compost, and much more. Join us in this effort to make Mercer County more sustainable and greener!

Learn more about sustainability by visiting the [Mercer County Planning Department](http://www.mercercounty.org/departments/planning/) at <http://www.mercercounty.org/departments/planning/>.

Reminder Note: Absolutely NO PLASTIC BAGS should be put in your curbside recycling buckets.



...to John & Jeannie Weakliem, Pat Flores and Patrick Krey & Hendricks Davis for hosting our "1st Friday Flamingo" parties.
...to Kathi Eckert and Lily Knezevich for hosting the November Association meetings.
...to all the neighbors who provided content for this issue !!
...and to our **EXTREMELY AWESOME** proofreaders, Terri O'Prey and Lily Knezevich!!!



Hiltonia Participates in the Festival of Trees By Terri O'Prey

My first visit last year to the annual Festival of Trees at Morven Museum and Garden was inspiring. Trees and mantels adorned by local civic groups ranged from simple beauty to complex, intricate themes. "Hiltonia should do this," I thought. One of the biggest surprises to me as a new Hiltonian was the breadth and depth of neighborhood wildlife, which was not something I previously associated with Trenton. Our theme, *The Hills Are Alive*, represents the natural beauty around us.



Volunteers met several times this fall to contribute objects and arrange our display. Thanks to the generosity of Hiltonians, we had a wealth of objects at our disposal. We were able to incorporate deer (many of them, obviously), foxes, a variety of birds, a raccoon, a mouse, and even pigs, all nestled in greenery. Buildings and a framed Hiltonia postcard are interspersed in this natural setting. I'm grateful to everyone who joined the fun by lending objects or dedicating time and expertise to the project (Jessika Baer, Kathi Eckert, Lori Emmerson, Pat Flores, Sandy Lewis, Carole Minotti, Georgia Wallar, and Jeannie Weakliem). Special thanks to Kathi Eckert and Veda Wendell for helping with the installation.



The Festival of Trees runs until January 5, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 10 AM to 4 PM (open until 8 PM December 12 and 19). If a visit to Princeton is in your near future, be sure to stop by Morven (55 Stockton Street) to check out our neighborhood contribution to the festival and the other amazing displays! For more about the festival: <https://morvenmuseum.squarespace.com/festival-of-trees>.

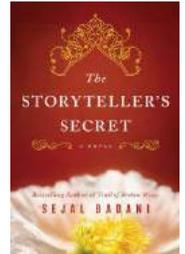
Hiltonia Book Club, The Storyteller's Secret By Terri O'Prey

Neighborhood readers gathered eagerly at the Tewari residence on Sunday, September 8, to dine on Indian cuisine, discuss *The Storyteller's Secret*, and meet our long-awaited neighbor Mani (who had arrived in Hiltonia only days before). We also enjoyed the company of newcomers Sandy Lewis and Jeannie Weakliem.

Our book was set mostly in India, and it was meaningful to hold our gathering in Rana's lovely home. We kicked off the

festivities with Vernon's refreshing rose water lassis then settled into the dining room after heaping our plates with delicacies that included samosas, cauliflower with cream sauce (garam masala, turmeric, and cumin base), yellow daal, saag paneer, chicken tandoori, and rice. Mani had prepared a special celebratory dessert to welcome us, which was a delicious treat that paired beautifully with the coconut burfi.

Before reading our randomly selected book-related questions, we marveled at Pat Flores's mementos from trips to India. Among them were an autographed Mother Teresa book and two items directly related to our book: a traditional lunch pail and tooth cleaning stick. Our book discussion ranged from predetermined destiny (particularly the caste system) to arranged marriage to infertility and infidelity and beyond. Rana offered his own perspective as someone who grew up in India, and Gary and Mani graciously shared their impressions as well. In the end, I think we all agreed with Maris Williams's synopsis: "I found it a complex story with excellent plot structure and vivid characterization. The fictional threads wove together very well, which always makes me smile."



Survey of Participation and Interest By Lori Emmerson

Hiltonia's sense of community is what makes our neighborhood so unique and special. The monthly and seasonal events draw a nice group of people but as the saying goes, "the more the merrier." To help us determine how we can engage even more families to participate in our social events, please take a few minutes to complete this online survey. It will help us better understand your preferences and enable us to plan events that are more convenient to your family's schedules, and plan the type of activities you're interested in.

In case you didn't get a chance to complete the survey, please follow the link below to indicate your preferences:

<https://forms.gle/DmjP2dsyFAGHtwME8>



2019 Worthy Projects Initiative By Jacques & Maureen Lebel, Co-Chairs

At its November 12, 2019, general membership meeting the Association voted to contribute to two Worthy Projects: Mercer County Meals on Wheels and the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie. The contributions will be made on a matching basis. The Association will match individual contributions of up to \$250.00 for each organization. Residents of Hiltonia who would like to participate should make a check payable to Meals on Wheels of Mercer County or to the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie or a separate check if donating to both. The checks should be delivered to Co-Presidents Dennis Wendell and Terri O'Prey (7 Renfrew Avenue) as soon as possible, but no later than December 28.

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County provided nearly 77,000 meals during its last fiscal year. The majority of recipients live in Trenton. Only 12 percent of the organization's budget comes from recipients, with the remainder coming from government and foundation grants and donations like ours. Each meal is delivered with a face-to-face interaction with one or more of the program's many volunteers.

The Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie maintains and seeks to display and increase public access to its large and important collection of historical objects, works of art, books and other documents pertaining to the industrial, cultural, political, and civic history of Trenton from its founding through the present. Under an agreement with the City of Trenton, the Museum Society collection is housed in the Ellarslie Mansion located on the grounds of Trenton's historic Frederick Law Olmsted designed Cadwalader Park. Ellarslie is open to the public, to view selections from the museum society's peerless collection, including ceramics created by Trenton's famous nineteenth- and twentieth-century pottery industry, historical and cultural artifacts, along with constantly changing exhibits

of the region's roster of accomplished artists. The museum is funded by a combination of contributions, grants, program income, fundraising events, and the museum store.

An Ounce of Prevention

The Trenton Police Department has shared this graphic with us to help prevent being a victim of crime this season. A few common sense precautions can be the difference between your security....or not.



WARNING!

Please help us decrease the incidence of theft. Lock your vehicle and secure your belongings.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Always lock your vehicle with the windows rolled up.
- Don't leave anything of value inside the vehicle in plain sight.
- Items that you can't take with you should be locked in the trunk.
- Don't leave your vehicle unoccupied with the keys in it.
- If you have an anti-theft device for your vehicle... use it!
- Make sure the license plates on your vehicle are properly secured.
- At night, if possible, park in well-lit areas.
- Report all incidents as quickly as possible to the police.
If you don't report a crime, the Police Department won't know there is a problem.

To report an incident to the
Trenton Police Department
call 609-989-4170
Emergency – dial "911"

Email Distribution & Opting-Out of the Printed Newsletter

We are trying to improve communication within the neighborhood, so we have created a new co-president's email list. If you are currently not receiving any neighborhood news via email, and you would like to, please send your email to hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com and we will add you to the list. Our co-presidents will keep you informed of neighborhood news and happenings.

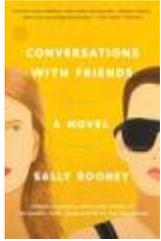
We would also like you to consider "opting-out" of the printed form of *The Hilltone*. Please send a note from your preferred email to kathi325@gmail.com with your name, address, and phone with your wishes (email only or print only). **We will continue to distribute it in printed format if you so choose**,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



Hiltonia Book Club, Part 2: Conversations with Friends

By Terri O'Prey

As the puller-together-of potential Irish novels for this meeting, I anticipated our November 3 gathering with some trepidation. Reader, I hated this book and wondered how the meeting would go! Nevertheless, I prepared my dish, gathered publisher questions, and headed over to Kathi's home promptly at 5:00. At least, I thought, we'll enjoy good eats before the conversation goes south.



And that we did, supping on Irish-themed goodies that included a Guinness tasting, shepherd's pie (with lamb and Guinness), cabbage (with optional bacon bits), stuffed pork tenderloin with a side of Colcannon, potato leek soup, veggies, soda bread (Linda's family recipe follows), wine, and sparkling sodas.

Thus fortified, we settled into conversation about Sally Rooney's *Conversations with Friends*, a tale of twenty-somethings struggling to adulthood, told through traditional prose, email snippets, and texting fragments. Dislike of Frances, the main character, was universal. We

wondered whether we just weren't seeing her redeeming qualities shine through the various narrative formats. And Nick, we agreed, was of a type (attractive married man mature in age only). Together this pair stirred up drama and spread heartache to the very end. Despite the disappointing plot and unlikeable cast of characters, the book did inspire thoughtful discussion of modern communication methods and tales as old as time. And even though not everyone had been able to slog through the entire saga, we all enjoyed spirited conversation enhanced by our dessert course: cookies, lemon pudding cake with whipped cream, and Irish coffee with Bushmills whiskey.

We closed the meeting with ideas for our next gathering (early 2020). Tops on the list is a China-related tale, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, accompanied by a tea ceremony guided by the Tea for All experts. Stay tuned for details! Interested in joining the fun? Contact Maris Williams (maris.w@comcast.net).

Linda Reid's Irish Soda Bread

- 4 cups flour
- ¼ cup butter
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 cups raisins
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 and ⅓ cups buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 eggs

Mix flour, sugar, salt, and baking powder. Cut in butter with pastry blender or two table knives until it resembles coarse cornmeal. Stir in raisins.

Combine buttermilk, eggs, and baking soda. Stir buttermilk mixture into the flour mixture until just moistened.

Bake in a greased one quart pan or casserole dish in a moderate oven (375 degrees) for 45-50 minutes until golden brown.

(For moister bread you may increase butter—or margarine—to ½ cup.)

Calendar of Events

December 26 - January 31: Patriots Week, various events and locations (<https://patriotsweek.com>)

December 30: TWW H2Open Forum, 7:00, City Hall

January 9 & 23; February 6 & 20: City Council Public Meeting; City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM

January 9 & February 13: Trenton Council of Civic Associations (TCCA) meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (2nd Thursday of every month)

January 14: Tuesday, General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, TBA

January 18: Saturday, Hiltonia Winter Party at 123 Renfrew, 7:00 PM

January 23 & February 27: Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC), 4th Thursday of every month from 6-7 PM at the Hermitage Police Substation (Hermitage & Artisan Aves.)

February 7: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA

March 6: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA

First Friday Flamingo Socials:

Won't you consider hosting an upcoming 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 volunteering, please let Lori Emmerson know ASAP, since she is building the schedule for the first quarter of 2020.

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/>



Announcing Our 2020 Officers

Linda Reid, Nominating Committee chairperson, presented a slate for the election of officers for 2020 at the November Association meeting. It is as follows: Co-Presidents: Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey, 1st Vice President: Jeannie Weakliem, 2nd Vice President: Ali Wilson, Treasurer: Barry Giordano, Recording Secretary: Melinda Chance, and Corresponding Secretary: Michael Nalbone. There were no nominations from the floor, so the slate will advance and be certified at the January general meeting.

We bid farewell to outgoing officers, Chrystal Miles and Margaret Mason, with our heartfelt thanks for their hard work this past year.

Membership Information

It's time again to renew your membership. Dues are payable in January for the 2020 year. Dues are \$15.00 per adult in the household. Membership forms can be downloaded at <http://hiltoniaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2019/09/2020.Membership.pdf>.

You may turn in your dues at any association meeting, to any officer of the Association or to the membership chair. See the sidebar for their addresses.

If you have any questions, contact our Membership chairperson, Dr. Donnie Johnson at DRJOHNSON821@GMAIL.COM (609-943-2895)

Trenton Water Works Forum

Do you want to know more about the operations and plans from the Trenton Water Works? Hear firsthand by attending the H2Open forums which are two hours in length with an hour-and-a-half Q&A session with water utility leaders, including director of water and sewer Steven Picco. Trenton's H2Open Forum will take place on Monday, Dec. 30, from 7 - 9 PM at City Hall, 319 East Sate Street.

SAVE THE DATE
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

January 18th at 7:00 PM
Joanne & Barry's Home
123 Renfrew Avenue
Please bring an entree



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)

Hiltonia Beautification: Vacant

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

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

Nominations Committee: Linda Reid, 212 Renfrew Avenue (609-394-2314)

Park Projects: Becky Taylor, 123 Cadwalader Drive (609-240-6886)

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

Welcome Wagon: June Guerrero, 201 Buckingham Ave. (732-673-0374)

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