



THE HILLTONE



President's Message

By Jeannie Weakliem

Welcome all. My name is Jeannie Weakliem and I was recently elected President of the Hiltonia Association. I look forward to working with you all as we move forward. Serving alongside of me I would like to welcome Margaret Mason as 1st Vice-President, Paulette Ayres as 2nd Vice-President and June Guerrero as Treasurer. Melinda Chance will continue as Recording Secretary, and Bea Scala-Fischler will serve as Corresponding Secretary. I would like to thank Terri O'Prey and Dennis Wendell for all their time and dedication serving as Co-Presidents over the last two years. You did a wonderful job and we are grateful for your service. I would also like to thank Ali Wilson and

Barry Giordano for their time and commitment to the Association.

Can you believe it's already March? Now that spring has finally arrived, the days just seem to meld together. We have been in this pandemic for a year and it has taken a toll on everyone. With the rollout of vaccines there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. Many in the neighborhood have already received theirs, and we hope everyone who wishes to will soon be able to get a vaccine. For more information on registering for a vaccine, the state of NJ has a vaccine registration site here: <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov>; once registered with the State, you can email the City Health Department for appointment scheduling at covidvac@trentonnj.org. They will need the following information: name, address, phone, email and date of birth. The City will reach out to you to get you on the schedule.

With people starting to receive their vaccines, there is hope that we can once again gather. Hopefully we will be able to bring back the famous First Friday Flamingo Socials soon as well. We also look forward to the many other Association events that have been held in the past. In closing, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email at hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com or by phone at (609) 577-7148.

Worthy Projects

By Jacques & Maureen Lebel

For the past few years, the Hiltonia Association has sponsored an annual fundraiser titled "Worthy Projects." For 2020, this effort succeeded in assisting three local nonprofits to provide their services to the residents of Trenton. The Association agreed to provide matching funds of up to \$250 for each of three selected projects (Trenton Area Soup Kitchen, Capital City Philharmonic, and Mercer Street Friends). Matching is based on donations from Hiltonia residents on a \$1 to \$1 basis. Thanks to the largess of our residents, who donated over \$1,600 allowing the Association to contribute its maximum of \$750.00, our 2020 Worthy Project donation was \$2,355.00. Sincere thanks to all the residents who participated in this "worthy" activity.

Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK): In addition to providing meals at over 20 sites throughout Trenton, TASK offers a range of programs to encourage self-sufficiency and to increase the quality of life of its patrons. A recent project in collaboration with a group of Princeton University computer science students paved the way to a web platform for patrons and potential employers to reach each other.

The Capital City Philharmonic: Despite numerous COVID-19 related roadblocks, the Capital City Philharmonic Orchestra hopes to open its 2021-2022 season on Saturday, October 23 with a 7:30 pm concert. As always, the Philharmonic is committed to engaging the local community as supporters and as members of its audience. Each week on its Facebook page the orchestra presents a "Maestro Minute" with recordings from earlier performances.

Mercer Street Friends: In partnership with the Trenton School District and Aramark Food Services, Mercer Street Friends began offering weekend emergency food bags to families. The demand grew quickly and now MSF distributes over 1,000 food bags each week. Weekend food bags are only one of the many efforts of Mercer Street Friends to fight food insecurity in Trenton and surrounding communities.



Making the Most of It, Pandemic-Style

By Pat Rodeawald

Yes, we've had Netflix and takeout – thank goodness! – during this terrible, unprecedented time. But sometimes you need to change it up, and happily our nearby institutions came through with entertainment, education, and sustenance during the pandemic.

We are lucky to have both a park and a museum within walking distance of our homes. I and many others stepped up our use of Cadwalader Park when the gyms closed. I had always included the park in my exercise routine, but I was thrilled to see so many others taking advantage of it. I've come to a greater appreciation of the value of outdoor exercise, and I'll bet many others have too.

And, of course, within the gem of a park is the gem of a museum – the Trenton City Museum at Ellarslie. The Museum Society started educating and entertaining members first with emails about its collection. They then added virtual curator's talks, the "Ellarslie Not-Quite-Open" exhibit (a pandemic take on the well-known Ellarslie Open), and then a reopening in September 2020 utilizing accepted COVID safety procedures. Even if you're not a member of the museum, you can sign up for email alerts to stay informed about upcoming exhibits and events, both live and virtual www.ellarslie.org.

A little farther afield, but still nearby, is Passage Theatre. Passage has been producing new, socially relevant productions for over 35 years. With all theaters going dark and many not producing any work at all, Passage continued to offer virtual programming. Although productions were available for viewing at any time during the virtual run, I preferred to watch the group screening with the post-show discussion. It was nice to actually plan around an event! Passage has two more online productions this season, plus a planned outdoor reading of a new play still in workshop, The OK Trenton Project. See what's coming up here <https://passagetheatre.org/2020-21-season/>.

Now on to sustenance. I hope everyone has had the opportunity to experience the winter wonderland of Erini restaurant around the holidays. They spared no expense in lighting their outdoor space to create a holiday extravaganza. With the pandemic, outdoor dining became infinitely more desirable, and the owners stepped up. The outdoor dining areas (there are two) are filled with space heaters that will make even cold nights comfortable. We recently dined there on a relatively mild night and actually had to have them turn down the heaters! There is a \$5 surcharge for the propane, but it's well worth it. I hope Erini and other local restaurants continue offering expanded outdoor dining <https://erinirestaurant.com/>.

Other nearby restaurants offering nice outdoor experiences include Blooming Grove and Washington Crossing Inn <http://www.bloominggroveinn.com/> and <https://www.washingtoncrossinginn.com>.

With the year we've all been through, these are just a few reasons to be thankful for what our little part of the world has to offer.

Top O' the Mornin' to You

I'm here again to give a SHOUT OUT for Donna's Little Free Library. Usage has slowed, so I hope this article and photo will generate new enthusiasm. Now that the snow has receded I can easily get books in and out, and will be sure to keep the selection rotating.

There are some fun books being overlooked: Cookbooks with photos just tempting the palate and crying out to be used. A book on interior decorating. A book on fashion. Some of the old classics that perhaps you missed reading in your early years, and will close the gap now that we are still isolating from the virus.

So c'mon by, and please be assured you do NOT have to bring a book before you can take a book. The Little Free Library has no strings attached. So here's to renewed interest . . . a couple of you have mentioned "cleaning out" and donating books . . . a most worthwhile endeavor.

Happy Spring.

Pat Flores, your Library Steward, corner of Renfrew and Glenwood



To access the links in this newsletter go to our Association website.

You can download this newsletter at: <https://hiltoniaassociation.org/the-hilltones-1998-thru-present/>

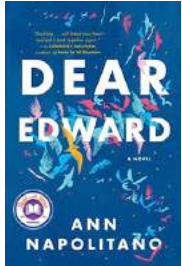


Hiltonia Book Club: 2 Reviews

By Terri O'Prey

Dear Edward, by Ann Napolitano

Hiltonia readers met in December to chat about Ann Napolitano's *Dear Edward*, a novel posing an intriguing question: *What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live?* We selected this book because we wanted to close out 2020 with a story of survival and hope. The publisher's summary was appealing:

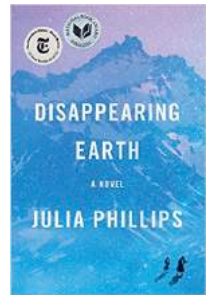


One summer morning, twelve-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother, his parents, and 183 other passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. Among them are a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured veteran returning from Afghanistan, a business tycoon, and a free-spirited woman running away from her controlling husband. Halfway across the country, the plane crashes. Edward is the sole survivor.

Although the in-flight chapters were fraught—we knew from the get-go that the voyage and lives were doomed—reading about travel evoked much nostalgia in the group. In general we readers liked the past/present literary convention, which delayed the plane crash long enough to allow the story of the flight and its passengers to unfold gradually while also portraying the survivor experience over time. As is often the case, we wondered what we would do in more than one of the character's shoes. Also familiar was the lively discussion that makes these gatherings worthwhile, even on Zoom.

Disappearing Earth, by Julia Phillips

Mesmerizing, unshakable, stunning, immensely moving: These are just a few ways reviewers described Julia Phillips's *Disappearing Earth*, which Hiltonia readers took up for our February read. From the publisher:



One August afternoon, two sisters—Sophia, eight, and Alyona, eleven—go missing from a beach on the far-flung Kamchatka Peninsula in northeastern Russia. Taking us through the year that follows, *Disappearing Earth* enters the lives of women and girls in this tightly knit community who are connected by the crime: a witness, a neighbor, a detective, a mother. We are transported to vistas of rugged beauty—open expanses of tundra, soaring volcanoes, dense forests, the glassy seas that border Japan and Alaska—and into a region as complex as it is alluring, where social and ethnic tensions have long simmered, and where outsiders are often the first to be accused. In a story as propulsive as it is emotionally engaging, Julia Phillips's powerful novel brings us to a new understanding of the intricate bonds of family and community, in a Russia unlike any we have seen before.

The framework of this book—a story unfolding over a year via chapters focusing on different characters—inspired much discussion. The structure offered both relief (readers were spared details of the suffering of the abducted girls) and frustration (clarity on how the book hangs together was not immediate). Even readers who didn't love the book seemed glad to have had the chance to learn about this remote region of the world and its complex demographics. Several among us were even inspired to research the author and the origins of the book, which enriched our dialogue and left at least one reader (me!) interested in rereading the book with a new lens.

Email Distribution & Opting-Out of the Printed Newsletter

We are always trying to improve communication within the neighborhood, so we have created an Association email distribution list. If you are currently not receiving any neighborhood news via email, and you would like to, please send your email to Jeannie at hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com and you will be added to the list. Our president 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* when we resume the printed format of our newsletter. Please send a note from your preferred email to kathi325@gmail.com with your name, address, and phone number 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!



Membership Information

Welcome to the neighborhood new residents! We are excited that you have decided to make Hiltonia your home. You will find that your choice of Hiltonia is an excellent decision. We are a very close community that is active civically and socially.

Please complete the application included in this newsletter (see page7) and submit it with your payment: \$15.00 per person and \$30.00 per family, per year, to join the Hiltonia Association for 2021!

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic lifts we will gradually return to our robust schedule of activities and events in our neighborhood. Come join us and join in on the fun!

Current residents please renew your Hiltonia Association membership and pay your dues! We need you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Donnie R Johnson, Hiltonia Association Membership Chair

PS. A membership form can be downloaded at

<https://hiltoniaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/01/2021.Membership.pdf>

Welcome to the Neighborhood By Ellen Heath

I am pleased to introduce new neighbors, Dekontee (Dee) Elliott and her 5 year old daughter, Zara, who have just moved into 15 Buckingham. Dee grew up on Ardmore Avenue in Trenton where her parents settled when they came from Liberia. Family is particularly important to Dee and she is glad to have close family nearby. She works for Merrill Lynch as a fraud analyst so has an easy commute when she is not working from home these days.

Zara attends Christina Seix Academy. Dee is happy with the school, saying that it emphasizes core values along with excellent instruction. When she and Zara are free, they go exploring: to museums, shops, anything that looks interesting, especially if it relates to art.

Dee had to have extensive work done on the inside of her house, which took a long time, but now that she is here, she is eager to be a part of the neighborhood. Join me in welcoming them to Hiltonia!



Porchfest Trenton 2020 Was Postponed

Porchfest Trenton 2020 unfortunately had to be postponed due to the pandemic. We are hoping to sponsor it in September or October of 2021. We have our fingers crossed that it "will be all systems go" in the fall.



If it is to be successful, we will again be looking for Hiltonia neighbors to volunteer their porch, driveway, or front yard to host a musical band or performer for one-hour intervals.

We will also need lots of volunteers prior to and during the event. We'll let you know when the volunteer forms become active again on our porchfest website. We hope to see you all there!

Pandemic Snippets:

Maris Williams: I have bought multiple face masks from a vendor at the Trenton Farmers Market. I think she's there Thursday, Friday, Saturday. It's spring, so I need a couple of new ones!

Bea Scala-Fischler: Michael and I really missed hosting one of the summer First Fridays last year. We hope the "house arrest" we've been under for the past year is over by July or August. We hope you will join us then.

Georgia Wallar: When we begin having in person meetings again we will need a host house. If you'd like to volunteer now, send me an email or call 609-695-8711 and speak to a real person.



This 'n That . . .

- We will be in need of speakers for our general meetings once we resume meeting in person. If you have any suggestions, if there is someone from whom you want to hear, please contact Jeannie to suggest someone.
- National Night Out has been postponed until further notice. Watch for more details.
- Becky Taylor wants you to know there will be another cleanup at Cadwalader Park in the future.
- City Council meetings are now virtual. See the "Calendar of Events" section on page 6 for details.
- Linda Reid is our new "Welcome Wagon" greeter. If you have new neighbors who have bought or rented a home in Hiltonia (within the last year), would you please share their contact information with Linda so she can meet and greet them? Her email is: grnlinda@gmail.com.
- The Hiltonia Association's website is: www.hiltoniaassociation.org; we have an Association calendar of events on the website. You can also install a Google app for the calendar on your phone. Our newsletters are archived there.
- The City has a centralized system for residents to report serious issues: it's the GovAlert app, and it is a genuine 311 system. The app is available on the trentonnj.org website. It can be used to send your concerns to the City. You will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your concern and you should receive an email when your concern has been resolved. Whether you are seeing suspicious vehicles, drug deals, violations of zoning ordinances, disrepair to roads, potholes, or ATVs, we now have a single, central contact to get our issues funneled to the appropriate City department.
- Just a reminder to keep our neighborhood streets clear on Wednesdays to ensure that the street sweeper can do a thorough job of cleaning our streets.
- If you hire a lawn service, please make sure your service knows it's responsible for hauling away any leaves or debris collected outside of City pickup dates. Otherwise, you, as the resident, are responsible for bagging it all or transferring it to your trash cans. It CANNOT be left loose in the gutters before the defined collection dates.
- Thanks to the **MANY** households who have opted out of the printed version of *The Hilltone*!!!! Anyone else????



....to all the neighbors who provided content for this issue ! We were able to provide a larger issue since we were solely digital. We hope to go back to the printed format very soon.

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

2021 Hiltonia Association Officers

President: Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

1st Vice President: Margaret Mason, 3 Cadwalader Drive (609-656-0203)

2nd Vice President: Paulette Ayres, 8 Renfrew Avenue (609-695-4656)

Treasurer: June Guerrero, 201 Buckingham Avenue, (732-673-0374)

Recording Secretary: Melinda Chance, 7 Cadwalader Drive,(609-393-2715)

Corresponding Secretary: Bea Scala-Fischler, 127 Cadwalader Drive (609-599-9520)

Immediate Past Co-Presidents: Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey, 7 Renfrew Avenue (732-996-6370; 732-996-6369)

2021 Chairpersons

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

Children's Social: VACANCY

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)

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

Porchfest: Jeannie Weakliem, 12 Hilvista Blvd. (609-577-7148)

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

Welcome Wagon: Linda Reid, 212 Renfrew Ave. (609-394-2314)

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



From the Archives, By Terri O'Prey

This piece called out to me for reprinting nearly 40 years after its initial publication both because it's humorous and because the answers mostly still hold true (annual membership dues have risen from \$5 per adult, of course). Enjoy!

Hiltonia Association Quiz (*Hilltone* Volume 2, number 11, February 1, 1982)

How much do you know about the Hiltonia Association? Here's a self-scoring quiz for your information and amusement. Circle your answers below and check yourself against the correct answers below.

1. To be a member of the Hiltonia Association, you must:
 - a. be a homeowner
 - b. earn more than \$50,000 per year
 - c. drive a Cadillac
 - d. none of the above
2. The Hiltonia Association is run by:
 - a. a paid staff of professional organizers
 - b. the City of Trenton
 - c. members who volunteer their time for the benefit of their neighbors
 - d. the Democratic Party
3. Which of the following is an example of the Hiltonia Association's activities?
 - a. the annual block party
 - b. the covered dish dinner
 - c. the children's Easter egg hunt
 - d. all of the above
4. *The Hilltone* is:
 - a. published by the *Trenton Times*
 - b. delivered free to Hiltonia Association members
 - c. delivered free to all Hiltonia residents
 - d. a waste of Gloriann Kyte's time
5. The Hiltonia Crime Watch program was started by:
 - a. the Hiltonia Association
 - b. the mayor
 - c. somebody on Buckingham Avenue
 - d. the FBI
6. The Hiltonia Association is involved in:
 - a. the Trenton Council of Civic Associations
 - b. the West Ward Alliance
 - c. the Heritage Days festival
 - d. all of the above
7. The Hiltonia Association's General Meetings are:
 - a. attended by invitation only
 - b. held in secrecy when everyone is out of town
 - c. held in the governor's executive conference room
 - d. open to all residents of Hiltonia
8. Which of the following is a good reason to join the Hiltonia Association?
 - a. the Hiltonia Association will help me meet my neighbors and make new friends
 - b. the Hiltonia Association needs my help to make this neighborhood a better place to live
 - c. one out of every three residents is already a member
 - d. all of the above
9. Hiltonia Association dues are:
 - a. \$0.50 per year per adult
 - b. \$5.00 per year per adult
 - c. \$50.00 per year per family
 - d. used to send the executive board members to Atlantic City

Calendar of Events

Trenton Council of Civic Associations (TCCA) meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (2nd Thursday of every month).

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

In response to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, until further notice, the Trenton City Council will be conducting all previously scheduled meetings using an online platform in accordance with NJSA 10:4-6 et seq. and guidelines issued by the Division of Local Government Services.

City Council Public Meetings: City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:30 PM; 5:30 PM. Held virtually until further notice.

• **The public will be able to participate by [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) +1 609-453-2732, Conference ID: 241 304 181 #**

• **Members of the public are asked to MUTE their phones or microphones so as to not disturb the proceedings. Members of the public will be able to comment at the specified time during the meeting.**

General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, via Zoom. **TBA**

10. The best time of year to join the Hiltonia Association is:
 - a. right after the City inspects your sidewalk
 - b. right before the City inspects your sidewalk
 - c. right after you've repaired your sidewalk
 - d. right now

Scoring

9-10 correct: You are probably already a member.

7-8 correct: If you are not a member, perhaps you should be.

5-6 correct: You probably just moved in. Read your *Hilltones*.

0-4 correct: Don't call us, we'll call you.

Contributed by Peter Aluotto

Answers: 1.d; 2.c; 3.d; 4.c; 5.a; 6.d; 7.d; 8.d; 9.b; 10.d




Whether you are new to Hiltonia, or have spent your entire life here, you will find one thing in common – Hiltonia is a wonderful place to live!

2021 Membership Drive

THE HILTONIA ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 7315
West Trenton, NJ 08628
www.hiltoniaassociation.org

Membership Dues are \$15.00 per adult in the household

Dues are used to fund neighborhood events such as the children's Easter and Halloween parties, National Night Out, adult winter and garden parties, and various social and community events throughout the year. The Association is also a proud supporter of various local charities. **Dues run from January through December.** If you're interested in joining, please fill out this form.



2021 Hiltonia Association Membership Form

Name 1 _____ Name 2 _____

Address: _____ Date you moved in: _____

Phone 1 _____ Phone 2 _____

Email 1 _____ Email 2 _____

[] Please add me to the president's email distribution list (no 'reply all'—no discussions—just info.)

[] Please add me to the moderated email group for informational announcements (hiltoniaassociation@googlegroups.com)

[] Please add me to the open email group for more in depth general discussions among neighbors (dialogue-group@googlegroups.com)

Interested in Volunteering?

Please check the box if you can assist the Association. You do not need to chair a committee, but be willing to help out on one!! Most events only require a few hours of your time. Thank you, in advance, for your help!

<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality (help with snacks at meetings)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hiltonia garden and beautification projects
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome wagon (greet new neighbors)	<input type="checkbox"/> Flyer foot patrol (<i>Hilltone</i> distribution)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hosting a meeting or event (WE SET UP)	<input type="checkbox"/> Become an Officer/Executive Board member
<input type="checkbox"/> Membership (help keep list current)	<input type="checkbox"/> Event planning: Children (Easter, Halloween, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity (take pictures)	<input type="checkbox"/> Event planning: Adults (parties, pot-lucks, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Civic Committee (attend a meeting as our rep at City Council /Police Relations-CPAC/TCCA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications (website, newsletter, email groups)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Please return this form, along with a check payable to the "Hiltonia Association" (\$15 per adult), to:
Treasurer, **June Guerrero**, 201 Buckingham, or
Membership Chair, **Dr. Donnie Johnson**, at 1502 Stuyvesant.

TREASURER'S USE:	MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S USE:
Amount Paid _____ Date: _____	Date Received: _____
Check # _____ Cash Rec'd. _____	Recorded on membership list: _____yes_____no
Posted to Database: _____yes_____no	Volunteers sent to President: _____yes_____no
	Dues Receipt Sent: _____yes_____no

NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

Do you have something to sell, trade, or give away? A service to provide? Email Kathi at kathi325@gmail.com if you want to place an ad in the next issue of *The Hilltone* (free to residents of Hiltonia).

Certificate of Notary Public

Rana R. Tewari, a realtor and neighbor at 108 Renfrew Avenue, has been duly commissioned as a Notary Public of the State of NJ. Accordingly, fellow Hiltonians are welcome to avail the Notary Service by making an appointment by calling 609-213-9197 any day of the week .


BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices

Linda Reid
Sales Associate

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Office: 609-737-9100
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