



THE HILLTONE

www.hiltoniaassociation.org

December 2018

Lily's Message

As 2018 is rapidly moving into the past, so is my second term as president of your Hiltonia Association. It has been an honor to lead this civic association for the past two years. As I prepare to turn over the reins to the new officers, I have taken some time to reflect on my term in office and what's next for the Association.

I am so proud of what we have accomplished in the last two years. The Hiltonia Association has seen increases in membership, events ("Hiltonia Hospitality"), and participation at those events. This success is largely due to the expanding number of volunteers whose commitment of time and effort "gets it done." We now have a good committee structure in place, and it is the committee chairs who add so much value to the HA—including attending City Council meetings, sponsoring parties, managing messages, attending CPAC, welcoming new neighbors, and identifying worthy projects. These were among the goals I set for the HA two years ago, and I am proud to have led this progress.

The Hiltonia Association has the great good fortune to have a priceless inheritance that includes our traditions, our history, and our constitution and by-laws. We also have a wonderful community, strengthened by our association and that inheritance. When I became president, I realized that we can thrive as an organization by using the structure set up in our constitution. So I have relied on that structure—for the schedule of meetings, the committee structure, the elections process, and for guidance on our mission. I am very grateful to the folks who wrote our constitution way back when—it is a very wise document!

To make the meetings as efficient as possible, I committed to sharing by email in advance of meetings, and to drafting minutes after every meeting so that they could be approved by consent without needing to be read out loud at the subsequent meeting. These two policies have been very effective.

Of the events that we sponsored, I am especially proud of being able to bring the West Ward neighborhoods together for the two "Meet the Candidates" Town Hall events prior to the election for mayor and city council last May. We also sponsored two Hiltonia events prior to the run-off election. I hope that Hiltonia will continue to work with other civic associations in Trenton to help move the city forward.

Last but not least, I am thrilled with the updated Hiltonia Association website. I really can't take credit for it—just for having the foresight to ask Kathi to work on it! The site needed a major overhaul, and Kathi was able to learn WordPress and do it all. It is such a valuable resource and helps unite the neighborhood.

My disappointments are the items I had on my agenda that I did not achieve. The major one is: **Neighborhood Watch** signs. This topic has been on almost every agenda for our meetings. I will continue to work on this initiative in the new year. We need cooperation from the Streets Department to get this done. As the Trenton City Hall becomes more customer-friendly and responsive, I am hopeful we can achieve this goal in the new year.

Another task that remains on my to-do list is sharing a budget for 2019 of expected receipts and expenditures. I will work with Jim Ambrosio on that.

I am convinced we all want what is best for our neighborhood, since a strong neighborhood community is what brought us to Hiltonia in the first place. To have a strong community, neighbors need the opportunity to get to know one another, to work together on common goals. That is what Hiltonia is all about. I know we will continue to thrive and grow if we all keep that in mind. In the words of that wise African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your president.

Lily



Upcoming Election

By Lily Knezevich

There will be an election for president of the Hiltonia Association at our January meeting. None of the other offices were contested, so the nominees from the slate submitted by the Nominating Committee for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer will be the new officers.

The election will be between the nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee (Terri O'Prey and Dennis Wendell as co-presidents) and Mike Ranallo. I have appointed an Election Board, as called for in our constitution. The Board consists of: Kathi Eckert, Donnie Johnson, Bill Merz, Linda Reid, and myself. The Board is charged with preparing the ballot and conducting the election on January 8th.

In order to vote in the election, you must be a paid-up member prior to the meeting on January 8. That is, you must be fully paid for 2018 and 2019. **We will not be collecting dues at the meeting on January 8th.** All voting must be done in person and no proxies will be permitted. (These rules are in our constitution.)

2019 Officers

President: [Awaiting election January 8th](#)
1st Vice President: Jeanne Weakliem
2nd Vice President: Ali Wilson
Corresponding Secretary: Chrystal Miles
Recording Secretary: Margaret Mason
Treasurer: Barry Giordano

Hiltonia, a History: Call for Volunteers

By Terri O'Prey

Do you love local history? Have an interesting story about Hiltonia or your home? Our neighborhood centenary is approaching, and to commemorate that milestone we aim to produce a book about it. The book will include a history of the neighborhood, a history of the Association, and individual resident stories. This will be a big project, and a group effort will help pull it off. Please contact Terri O'Prey (taoprey@gmail.com) by January 31 if you're interested in serving on a committee:

- neighborhood history
- Association history
- interviewing residents (present and former)
- publishing nuts and bolts (editing, proofreading, technical skills)

If serving on a committee isn't for you, but you would like to contribute to the project by telling the story of your home or your experiences in Hiltonia, please contact Terri and let her know (1) if you would like to write your contribution or (2) wish to be interviewed instead.

A Fabulous Fundraiser — Worthy Projects:

By Lily Knezevich

This fall the Hiltonia Association voted to hold a fundraiser for two organizations: Passage Theatre and the Trenton Children's Chorus. I am happy to report we raised a total \$826.00 for the two organizations: \$433.00 for Passage Theatre and \$393.00 for the Trenton Children's Chorus.

So, since the HA voted to match up to \$250 raised for each organization, the HA and our neighbors are donating \$683.00 to Passage Theatre and \$643.00 for the Trenton Children's Chorus, adding up to a grand total of \$1,326.00. It was a really successful fundraiser this year! Thank you to all the neighbors who contributed!

Membership Has Its Privileges

By Lily Knezevich

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, all you need to do is pay your annual dues. Then you get to vote on all proposals and motions.

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 are still a mere \$15.00 per adult in your household.

You can now download a membership form at <https://hiltoniaassociation.org/membership-forms/>.

City Directory

(from the City's website)

Office of the Mayor,	609-989-3030
Office of the City Clerk,	609-989-3187
Administration,	609-989-3807
Finance,	609-989-3034
Fire & Emergency Services,	609-989-4038
Health & Human Services,	609-989-3331
Housing and Economic Development,	609-989-3504
Inspections,	609-989-3550
Law,	609-989-3011
Public Works,	609-989-3151
Police Department,	

609-989-4055/4170/911

Recreation, Natural Resources and Culture,
609-989-3635

- Robin Vaughn, West Ward Councilwoman,
609-989-3187 (office) ;
rvaughn@trentonnj.org
- Detective Tamika Veal, 609-215-2501



Ten+ Awesome Things to Eat in Trenton, NJ

By Eric Maywar

Beloved by insiders and visitors alike, Trenton features authentic cuisine from North America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe, and Asia. If you want to travel to other countries (gastronomically speaking) you don't have to go far. There are so many options.

Here are ten (plus one) of our favorite signature tastes of Trenton that you need to try.

AREPA (Venezuela): a delicious cornmeal sandwich roll. At [Casdeluna Bar and Restaurant y arepera](#) (800 Chestnut Avenue in the New Chambersburg), they have 14 different fillings—our favorite is the steak arepa. It might be our favorite food anywhere in the world.

BRISKET (Texas): smoked beef. It's rare to find succulent brisket north of the Mason Dixon, but there it is at the [1911 Smoke House Barbeque](#) (11 Front Street downtown). You can locate the restaurant by the smell of brisket two blocks away.

THE COMEBACK (soul food): fish filet sandwich in comeback sauce. [Ila Mae's Restaurant](#) (313 Market Street in Mill Hill).

FALAFEL (Middle East): fried chickpea dish. Try Gyro Express (7 East State Street downtown).

MITITEI (Romania): grilled ground meat rolls made of beef and veal with garlic and thyme. [BLUE DANUBE RESTAURANT](#) (Elm & Adeline Streets) serves authentic mititei along with other great tastes from eastern Europe.

MOFONGO (Puerto Rico): garlic flavored mashed plantains. Towering like a dormant volcano over your dinner plate, mofongo with chicken or pork is not to be missed. Try it at Tropical Family (778 Centre Street) or Sabor Latino (293 Ashmore Avenue).

OXTAIL (Jamaica): a meat stew. You're in luck—Trenton is rich in oxtail. Try [Bamboo Grill Jamaican Restaurant](#) (911 Chambers Street), [Restaurant Soh4](#) (504 North Clinton Avenue), or [The Hummingbird Restaurant](#) (29 South Warren Street downtown). Try all three!

PHO (Vietnam): a soup featuring rice noodles. Pho Friendly (729 Brunswick Avenue) is Mercer County's only true Vietnamese restaurant, but it would stand out as the best if there were 20.

PIEROGIES (Poland): Poland's national dish is stuffed dumplings. At Rozmaryn Restaurant (925 North Olden in the Polish neighborhood), you get your choice of potato and cheese, meat, or sauerkraut and mushrooms served with friend onions or sour cream.

SMALL-BATCH ROASTED COFFEE. [Trenton Coffee House and Records](#) (750 Cass Avenue) uses, according to [HiddenTrenton.com](#), "only the BEST beans that are fresh (harvested less than 15 months previously, and usually fresher)."

TRES LECHES CAKE (Mexico): Moist three-milks cake. You can find it at the Mexican Chenchy y Chola (865 South Broad Street) or the Costa Rican [La Cabaña Bakeshop & Restaurant](#) (3 Dayton Street).

Try all 11 of these authentic, diverse dishes! Take pictures of yourself at the restaurants and post them on the Trenton Eat Local Club Facebook group.

If you want to explore the authentic, diverse Trenton food scene, check out recommendations at www.HiddenTrenton.com or join the [Trenton Eat Local Club](#) as they eat their way month by month through the Trenton menuscapes.

Calendar of Events

December 20: City Council Public Meeting; 5:30 PM, City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month

December 27: Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC) meets on the 4th Thursday of every month from 6-7 PM at the Hermitage Police Substation (Hermitage & Artisan Avenues)

January 3: City Council Public Meeting; 5:30 PM, City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month

January 8: Tuesday, General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, 11 Buckingham Ave.

January 10: TCCA meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (2nd Thursday of every month)

January 13: Hiltonia Book Club, 7 Renfrew Ave., 5:00 PM

January 17: City Council Public Meeting; 5:30 PM, City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month

January 24: Citizens Police Advisory Council (CPAC) meets on the 4th Thursday of every month from 6-7 PM at the Hermitage Police Substation (Hermitage & Artisan Avenues)

February 5: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA (host needed)

March 1: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA (host needed)

March 12: Tuesday, General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, TBA

NEIGHBORHOOD ADS

Do you have something to sell, trade, or give away? 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).



Happy to be a Hiltonian Now!

By Rana Tewari

We were a bit sad on leaving Princeton Landing in Plainsboro as we had stayed there for 15 years to enjoy the benefit of their school system for our children.

The calm, quiet, and serene atmosphere of our new neighborhood has stolen our hearts. The proximity to lakes and a charming beautiful park, close access to major highways, and the proximity of shopping plazas and popular food franchises is wonderful. A quick drive over the bridge to Morrisville brings accessibility to the Farmers Market for fresh fruits and Giants



for grocery shopping, and 24/7 access to major banks is also heartening.

The family consists of Rana Tewari (M. Sc.), an ex-banker and now working with Equity Mid Atlantic Real Estate as a residential and commercial realtor both in NJ and PA for the last fourteen years. My wife, Neel, is a post-graduate in clothing and textiles, and has spent a lot of time in the fashion industry in New York. My son, Gaurav (Gary), is currently promoting a solar energy business and his wife, Mani, holds an MBA

degree in Human Resources. My daughter, Priyanka, is a mini-celebrity. She is a radio jockey with a popular South Asian radio station, WWRL 1600 AM. She gives a live broadcast from 7 to 10 AM from Monday to Friday and can also be heard on the "Tune In" app.

Soon we wish to have a house warming party or host a "First Friday Flamingo Social" at our home for our friendly Hiltonian neighbors. We are happy to be a part of a very peaceful, friendly, and beautiful Hiltonia.

GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES TO ALL FOR A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2019!

Archiving Our Treasures

By Dennis Wendell

As we approach the end of the year, many of us are thinking about cleaning out the attic, basement, or garage. It can be fun to rediscover old treasures while purging unneeded items. And if the cold winter days ahead put you in that mindset, please consider digging through memorabilia to unearth Hiltonia photos, newsletters, or other neighborhood artifacts to contribute to the Hiltonia archives project. Our centenary is on the horizon, and building a neighborhood archive can help us commemorate that milestone with a shared resource. If you have objects, documents, or photos to contribute, please contact [Dennis Wendell](#) or [Terri O'Prey](#). Or, you can put them directly into the [Google Drive archive folder](#) created just for this project. Archived treasures could make their way into the neighborhood book project!

Missing Information

By Kathi Eckert

While you are digging through your memorabilia, you can help me out with our Association website. We are missing information in two specific areas: past officers and previously published *Hilltones*. If you can provide any of these, please send them to me at kathi325@gmail.com. These are the years missing:

OFFICERS

HILLTONES

1988	1998	1988	1999
1989	2000	1989	2000
1990	2002	1990	2005
1991	2005	1991	2006
1992	2006	1992	2008
1993	2008	1993	2009
1994	2009	1994	2010
1995	2010	1995	2016
1996	2015	1996	
1997	2016	1997	

THANK YOU



.....to Kathleen and Brennan Coughlin for providing their assistance with the printing of past issues of *The Hilltone*, and for all their hard work in sponsoring the Kids' Halloween Party!

....to Jeannie and John Weakliem, Terri O'Prey and Dennis Wendell, Georgia Wallar, and Lily Knezevich for hosting our "First Friday Flamingo" socials.

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

.....in advance to Barry Giordano and Joanne Rounsaville, who will be hosting our annual Holiday Party in their home on January 26th! **(Save the Date!)**

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



Hiltonia Book Club: A Man Called Ove

By Terri O'Prey

The club met at Margaret Mason's house on September 30th to enjoy an evening of fine food and good company, and to share our impressions of Fredrik Backman's popular novel. The setting (Sweden) and events of the novel inspired our menu, which included

- pickled herring, goat cheese, & crispbread
- cucumber salad
- yellow split pea soup
- grilled chicken & couscous with vegetables
- sausages & potatoes
- apple cake
- strawberries with sour cream & brown sugar
- make-your-own ice cream sundaes
- peppermint schnapps

Pat Flores added wonderful Swedish touches to the feast, which enhanced the lovely setting. One treasure included a Swedish meal blessing to kick off the festivities.

Between delicious bites, we offered up impressions of the book. Ove seemed much older than 59. And it's no wonder his wife dealt with his personality quirks so well: he was just like her father (who, like reluctant Ove, found a close companion in a cat). Could any of us befriend a neighbor like Ove? Even though some considered the loose ends neatened up awfully quickly in the end, in general we agreed that diving into this heartwarming story was a worthwhile pursuit. And I was inspired by favorable comments around the table about the film adaptation to give that a chance. I highly recommend the movie as an option for folks interested in watching the story unfold on screen. If subtitles aren't your thing, keep an eye out for the soon-to-be-produced Tom Hanks version!



Next up: **Educated**, by Tara Westover, January 13 at 5:00 PM at 7 Renfrew. Menu TBD. New members are welcome, so please contact Terri O'Prey (taoprey@gmail.com) if you'd like to join the fun.

Linda Reid's Swedish Yellow Split Pea Soup

(Adapted from Eating Well)

- 3 cups yellow split peas
- 2 cups diced onion
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced carrot
- 8 ounces ham, diced (optional)
- 1 tbs minced fresh ginger (optional)
- 1 tsp marjoram
- 1 tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- 1 ½ tsp salt (I used kosher)
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups water

Wash peas and soak overnight.

Place in slow cooker (5 or 6 qt).

Add vegetables, broth, water, and spices.

Cook 7 hours on high (or overnight).

Blend in 3-4 cup batches until smooth (or leave chunky).

Serve, or return to slow cooker set on low.

Email Distribution & Opting-Out of the Printed Newsletter

We are trying to improve communication within the neighborhood, so we have created a new email list. If you received a duplicate newsletter, please let Kathi know to which email address you would like to continue receiving the electronic version of *The Hilltone*.

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!!!



West Ward Notes

By Robin Vaughn

To ensure we achieve a proper response to our requests, let's avoid always directly contacting the Department of Public Works Director Wally Onitiri for our requests. We need to contact the most appropriate service area of expertise that is responsible for routing, tracking, and for completing resident requests. Here is the contact information for each service area and a brief description of what they do:

1. (609) 989-3200 DIVISION OF STREETS - illegal dumping of tires/ furniture in alleyways, vacant homes and lots, asphalt paving, potholes, and snow removal
2. (609) 989-3165 DIVISION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY - vacant property landscape and lawn cleanup and cutting of overgrown foliage, trees, grass, weeds, etc.
3. (609) 989-3612 DIVISION OF TRAFFIC & ENGINEERING - handicap parking signage, traffic lights, sidewalk & curb repair, street lights, bus stops, painted street lines, and parking

Please don't hesitate to call me for additional information.

Robin Vaughn, West Ward Councilwoman (609) 331-6555 (c)
rvaughn@trentonnj.org

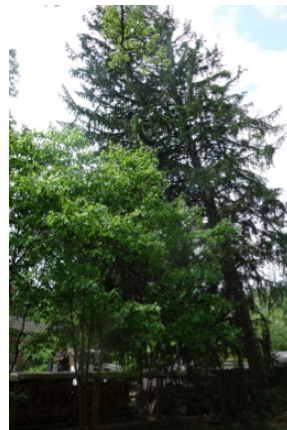
A Tree Topping Tale

By Maris and Vernon Williams

During the second of our four March 2018 nor'easters, the lovely, old 100-foot Norway Spruce at the back corner of our lot began to lean—a lot! We and our neighbors bit fingernails during the next two storms.

Spring brought the Silva Guard company to our rescue. We were relieved that the tree did not need to come down, and found ourselves with an unexpected treat: Cirque du Soleil right in our back yard!

The workers put on quite a show with their expert trimmer swinging from the cherry picker above the tree tops—with his chainsaw! We watched and laughed as the branches, roped into pulleys, began to disappear from the tree.



The danger is gone, we are very happy still to have our spruce, and we had a fun day of exciting entertainment. Thanks, Silva Guard!

2018 Hiltonia Association Officers

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

1st Vice Presidents: Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey, 7 Renfrew Ave.
(732-996-6370; 732-996-6369)

2nd Vice President: Marcia Youngs, 1404 Stuyvesant Ave. (609-396-6072)

Treasurer: Jim Ambrosio,
201 Renfrew Ave. (609-638-5827)

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

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

2018 Chairs

Adult's Social: VACANCY

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 Johnson, 1502 Stuyvesant Ave. (609-943-2895)

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

Welcome Wagon: Candice Bearley,
128 Buckingham Ave. (609-393-8724)

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

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 Lily know ASAP, since she is building the schedule for the first quarter of 2019.

