



THE HILLTONE

www.hiltoniaassociation.org

June 2019

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Dennis Wendell & Terri O'Prey

Drafting this note during a second evening of tornado warnings (!!!) this week is exciting to say the least. The initial plan was to type on the back deck, pausing occasionally to look out for the hummingbird and admire the last of the proud peonies. Being safely tucked inside instead provided a welcome feeling of stability—of this home, this Association, this neighborhood, and this City.

That's not to say everything is smooth-sailing around here. The failed Princetel deal illustrates the roller coaster that so often seems emblematic of our environment: giddy anticipation after the deal was announced to the public followed by an immediate steep drop to the low of accepting that it would not happen.

Dwelling on the reasons why isn't nearly as satisfying as remembering the City Council meeting that followed shortly thereafter. Fellow Trentonians turned out in droves, spoke passionately about the City's needs, and somehow infused a glimmer of hope into a bleak evening.

On a smaller scale, we've experienced similar ups and downs as your co-presidents. We left the March Association meeting with a feeling of optimism (e.g., our water has improved, the City's attention was turned to the long-neglected condition of the wooded side of Hilvista, and TPH seemed eager to lead a neighborhood information forum).

In retrospect, it seems obvious that we were a bit naive. By now we understand the harsh reality that pits our concerns against more pressing issues (most near and dear is the fact that estimates for a Hilvista cleanup far exceed any available funding).

Balancing disappointing realities are the inspiring everyday efforts of Hiltonians to make our neighborhood, the Association, the City a better place. These positive actions include but aren't limited to litter patrol; the memorial garden; dumping detectives; Google group information sharing; engagement with CPAC, TCCA, City Council, the Board of Education, and the Cadwalader Park Alliance; and supporting ways to commemorate our upcoming centenary.

Regarding the latter, we are thrilled to announce the planned publication of the first volume of our collective history: *The Hilltone, 1978–2019*. We have more than 400 pages of *Hilltones* to bring together, combined with a brief historical overview of Hiltonia and the Association and a detailed index, for a total of 456 pages!

Preorders start now, and if we reach our target of 170 copies ordered by the end of September you'll have the book in hand for holiday gift-giving and/or entertainment during winter's cold days and nights. (See page 7 for an order form with full details.) All funds raised through the sale of this volume will support the research and production of the next volume, an in-depth history of our neighborhood and homes. It's been fascinating to dive into the *Hilltone* archives, and we'd love nothing more than to see a copy of the book in every neighborhood home and in the mail en route to Hiltonia alum!



Hiltonia Beautification Committee

By Mike Ranallo, Committee Chair

The Hiltonia Beautification Committee members put their collective heads together over the last couple of months and started working on a few projects.

The initial focus will be the main entrances to the neighborhood - Hilvista Boulevard and Cadwalader Drive. Our thinking is that improvements to those main areas will add an immediate benefit and provide the most noticeable reward for the effort expended. If you have suggestions for improvements, please contact anyone on the committee.

The largest undertaking - in which the City has been a gracious partner - is the cleanup of the wooded area along Hilvista Boulevard. An RFP was sent out by our partners in City Hall to eventually contract someone to remove the dead trees and trash that has accumulated along that roadway and into the wooded portion. This will open up that area and the hope is to eventually create an natural mini-park in the area of the Hiltonia Garden. Currently that area is congested and not very visually appealing.

A large project that was put forth by Candice Brearley was to line Hilvista Boulevard with marigolds on the inner portion of the sidewalk. This would require another partnership with the City to assist in the forming of the beds and an agreement on using City property for that purpose. Maintenance is a concern but I am positive we can come to an agreement on this. Do deer eat marigolds?

Now that the warm weather is here and the trees are budding, we can finally complete the dead tree inventory around the neighborhood. The goal here is to inventory the trees that are dead and provide the City with a request to have them properly and completely removed.

Smaller projects include a request put in to Public Works for trash receptacles along Hilvista Boulevard and Cadwalader Drive. Hopefully this will help to discourage the accumulation of refuse on the roadways and provide people a place to drop their pet waste when they are out for a walk. As an aside, please curb your pet when you are out. It is very discourteous to not clean up after your pet.

The "Welcome to Hiltonia" sign on Hilvista will be relocated to be in front of the support pole that was installed when the new power poles were planted.

Janet Perez suggested improving/repainting or replacing the missing roadway signs in the neighborhood and clearing the branches and overgrowth from the obstructed signs. Hopefully we can accomplish this with some talented volunteers.

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....to Bill & Regina Merz, Emilia & Joe Dovidio, and Patrick Krey & Hendricks Davis for hosting our "First Friday Flamingo" parties.

....to Jeannie & John Weakliem and Georgia Wallar for hosting our Association meetings.

.....to Kathleen Coughlin & Rochelle Ellis for the fun Easter egg hunt!

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

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



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The Hiltonia Garden can always use some assistance, please contact Bill Merz to arrange lending a hand.

“Camera in use” signs were ordered for the neighborhood and will be placed in as of yet undetermined locations.

Some good news, the ATV ordinance is up for a second reading and will hopefully be adopted by the time you read this. This is a direct result of your involvement and concern regarding the illegal ATVs that use the park and streets of Hiltonia for recreation. Thank you.

The above list should take us through the summer as we try to accomplish each item.

If anyone has interest in participating on the committee please reach out as help is always welcome. Our current members are Candice Brearley, Joyce Kersey, Bill Merz, Janet Perez, Marcia Youngs, and Hiltonia Co-Presidents Dennis Wendell and Terri O’Prey.

Blind as a Bat? Not on Your Life!

By Patricia Flores and Terri O’Prey

With summer at hand, thoughts naturally turn to the great outdoors. Evenings spent on the deck or patio are often punctuated by bat sightings. I’m always pleased to see them in the sky, imagining them feasting on mosquitos. One doesn’t need to travel beyond Hiltonia to learn more about these night creatures. A visit with Pat Flores is all it takes. Read on for fascinating facts from our local historian and bat expert.

Of all creatures, none is more maligned than the bat. Myths and superstitions persist because the real lives of bats are so poorly presented and thus unknown. Upon asking people what they know about bats, three responses are made repeatedly: 1. Bats are blind, 2. They attack you and suck your blood, 3. They can become tangled in your hair. Each statement is erroneous.

Fear of bats can be far more dangerous than bats themselves. For example, people have broken legs in frantic escapes; nearly drowned when they fell from boat docks while fleeing bats; and in one instance an entire home was demolished when a substance exploded while being used to exterminate bats.

Let’s establish a personal crusade for the preservation and perpetuation of bats. We need to begin by eliminating the ignorance, and educating our friends and neighbors to the many benefits enjoyed by making bats a welcome part of our neighborhoods.

Bats are important indicators of a healthy environment. Like canaries in a mine, bats serve as a warning system for dangerously high pesticide and pollution levels. Their presence is clearly beneficial—they will leave you alone but not the mosquitoes. Some species feed on up to 500 mosquitoes an hour. As major predators of night-flying insects, they devour numerous crop pests, among those are the corn borer, grain and cutworm moths, potato beetles, and grasshoppers.

Many of the world’s most economically valuable crop plants rely on bats for pollination. Some of these are bananas, dates, breadfruit, avocados, figs, peaches, mangoes, cloves, cashews, carob, balsa wood, kapok (filler for life preservers). The value of tropical bats in reforestation is enormous. Many bats feed exclusively on fruit or nectar, and seeds dropped by them can account for up to 95 percent of forest regrowth on cleared land.

Studies of bats have contributed to the development of navigational aids for the blind, vaccine production and drug testing, as well as a better understanding of low-temperature surgical procedures.

Nearly one thousands kinds of bats amount to a quarter of all mammal species, of this number only three are vampire species that consume blood. These live exclusively in Mexico, Central and South America. Like humans, bats give live birth and nurse their young. Most of them bear only one offspring a year.

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Calling All Cadwalader Park Enthusiasts By Becky Taylor

Grab your mowers, clippers, and rakes, Hiltonia residents. The Hiltonia Association's newly formed special committee, the Cadwalader Park Project Committee, is planning a series of clean-up activities to make the park more accessible and attractive.

The first clean up on the Hiltonia side of the park is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 6, from 9 to 11 a.m. along the double ponds on the Cadwalader Drive side of the park. We will confirm timing via email in the near future.

Please bring your own equipment so you can help mow the paths around the ponds, clip the snarling branches on the overgrown wooden bridge, and restore a section of dirt path that has crumbled away from the



walkway leading from the stone bridge nearer the deer paddock.

Residents are also invited to offer ideas for other activities throughout the summer and fall. Some possibilities discussed so far are:

- cleaning up the monuments,
- restoring the paths in the deer paddock that city recreation staff and volunteers had created last year,
- sanding and repainting benches,
- identifying and fixing safety hazards,
- and – thinking big – restoring the ponds themselves.

The good news is the City's Recreation Department has taken meaningful action in the last few weeks to make our volunteer efforts possible. Crews moved three trees that had succumbed to rough winter weather and wet spring effects. That followed a park-wide volunteer clean-up effort earlier this spring in which teams of residents and staff piled up fallen tree limbs and other debris, which should allow mowing crews hired by the city to more comprehensively mow the grounds.

And our volunteer efforts with the Cadwalader Park Alliance last year set the stage for the park's comeback. At that time, volunteers and city officials hauled a displaced bridge across a stream that runs from the double ponds nearer to Stuyvesant Avenue to the other pond nearer to Hilvista Boulevard.



The goals of all efforts are to restore Cadwalader Park so it can be enjoyed as eminent landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and Trenton officials intended when they built the park in the late 1800s.

Members of the Cadwalader Park Project



Committee include the Association's co-presidents, Terri O'Prey and Dennis Wendell; former president, Lily Knezevich;

1st vice president, Jeannie Weakliem; and resident Becky Taylor. Let one of us know if you are interested in joining the committee.

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, 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: A Spark of Light

By Terri O'Prey



Hiltonia readers gathered at Maris Williams's home on March 10 to dine on Mississippi-inspired foods before sharing impressions of Jodi Picoult's *A Spark of Light*. It's no secret that our book club is young, and with just a few meetings under our belt everyone has been open to adjusting our approach to combining our love of the written word with our zeal to socialize and catch up with

friends. To that end, the first half of this meeting focused on food and friendship before we retired to Maris's cozy living room and sat around the fire to share our thoughts on the book.

Our feast was impressive: Mississippi roast, Vernon's greens, ham and biscuits, corn salad, baked beans, mac and cheese, icebox chocolate cake, upside-down pecan cake, Mississippi mud pie, lemonade, sweet tea, and wine.

Our conversation was loosely guided by author-suggested questions from the publisher's website. The subject matter and plot line lended themselves well to this format and encouraged honest and frank discussion of abortion, class, and violence. We all had opportunities to contribute to the conversation, and no matter what individual opinions we held about the story or its characters, all agreed that the book had been worth reading—and that sharing our thoughts on it had been time well spent.

Next up *The Travelling Cat Chronicles*, by Hiro Arikawa, June 23, at Pat Flores's home. It sounds like a fantastic read, described on NPR as allowing "its readers to experience vicarious happiness even as a sense of impending loss begins to creep through the pages." Interested in joining the group? Contact Maris Williams (maris.w@comcast.net).

Calendar of Events

July 18: City Council Public Meeting; 5:30 PM, City Hall; 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month

June 27, July 25, Aug. 22: 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)

June 29 and September 28: Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling, 8 AM to 2 PM; 350 Lawrence Station Road, Lawrence Township

July 11, August 8: TCCA (Trenton Council of Civic Associations) meeting, 7 PM, Thomas Edison State College, 111 West State Street (2nd Thursday of every month)

July 20: Garden Party, 7 Renfrew Avenue, 4 PM to 10 PM, rain or shine

August 2: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA (host needed)

August 6: National Night Out

September 6: First Friday Flamingo Social, TBA (host needed)

September 10: Tuesday, General Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, TBA (host needed)

September 14: Cadwalader Heights House Tour, 12 PM to 5 PM

What Do You Think?

For the September issue of *The Hilltone* we'd like to know your response to the question below. We will publish as many as we can in our available space. Please provide your name with your email response in case we have any questions. If you prefer we not print your name, just let us know. Please send your response to kathi325@gmail.com. **Please put "What Do You Think?" in the subject line.** A sentence or two is all we need. Looking forward to your thoughts!

What do you like most about the Hiltonia neighborhood?



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Bats come in an amazing variety of sizes and appearances. The world's smallest mammal, the bumblebee bat of Thailand, is just that size and weighs less than a penny; but some flying fox bats of the Old World tropics have wingspans up to six feet. Like dolphins, most bats communicate and navigate with high-frequency sounds. Using sound and a technique called echolocation, they can detect obstacles as fine as a human hair, even in total darkness.

So let's hear it for bats...erase those stereotypes and fears, and help people understand about the friendly nature of your hardworking, intelligent, gentle neighborhood bat. It's up to you. Each one of us can make a difference.

Adorable Grown Up Glitter By Rana Tewari

Our quest for finding a suitable bride for our son Gaurav ended when we found a beautiful match right in the vicinity of our home in New Delhi, India. As we have the practice of arranged marriages in India finding a well educated girl with an added flair for becoming a make up genius, a budding cosmetologist, has been a divine coincidence. Rightly we felt blessed.



She is indeed a beautiful grown up glitter. Born from an ethical family background, hazel eyed Mani Tewari holds an MBA. Her confidence in bridal make up is also attracting attention and has earned her many followers on her Facebook and Twitter accounts. Her teachers unequivocally say she is ambitious and has excellent skills in color combination and skin tone management. She is ambitious and excited to soon have her own beauty salon in America. A promising career awaits her.

We tell her that not only Gaurav & her in-laws, but all our Hiltonian friends and neighbors eagerly await her arrival.

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: Mike Ranallo, 15 Cornwall Ave. (609-802-4857)

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 Drive (609-240-6886)

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

Welcome Wagon: VACANCY

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



Free Talks Offered at NJ State Library

The NJ State Library has a series of free talks that may be of interest. Here's a link to the series and to July and August upcoming events:

<https://www.njstatelib.org/events/>

- July 16th, Cancer in Families: A Look at Genetic Risks
- July 17th—Author talk on the Jersey Shore: National Treasure
- July 23rd—Introduction to Finding Grants
- July 24th—Webinar—Legal Resources Available at the New Jersey State Library
- July 31st—Genealogical Research Stories: The Bass Class
- August 6th—Shining a Light on Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in All Levels of New Jersey Government
- August 13th—Introduction to Proposal Writing
- August 14th—Time Management

The NJ State Library is in the capitol complex next door to the NJ State Museum.

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; rvaughn@trentonnj.org
- Detective Tamika Veal, 609-215-2501

Preorders Now Being Accepted!

Hiltonia: A History
Volume I: The Hilltone, 1978–2019



Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of copies (\$20.00 each): _____ Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please remit payment—cash, or check made payable to Hiltonia Association—and order form to Terri O'Prey, 7 Renfrew Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08618.

Questions? Contact Terri at taoprey@gmail.com or 732-996-6369.

Note that if we receive enough preorders (170) by **September 30, 2019**, books will be in stock and available for holiday gift-giving.

Preorder now to guarantee your winter's worth of good reading!



Reviewing Our Constitution and By-Laws By Ali Wilson

Have you ever wondered what it must have felt like to be James Madison, Ben Franklin, or George Washington at the Constitutional Convention in 1781? Well, now you can (sort of)!

Beginning this July, the Hiltonia Association will re-draft its Constitution and By-Laws. A committee, led by Second Vice President Ali Wilson, has been charged with revising this important document. We are looking for members of Hiltonia to join the committee.

Besides being a paid dues member of the Association, we need people to represent each block in Hiltonia on the committee. Every effort will be made to have as diverse a group as possible in terms of views, age, race, and sexual orientation.



Most importantly, however, we need people who are committed to putting in the time to get this done.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Ali Wilson at 609-331-5122 by July 15. Thank You!

JULY
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ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

7 Renfrew Avenue
4 PM - 10 PM
Rain or shine!
This is a potluck party. Please bring an appetizer or entrée to share. All drinks and desserts will be provided by the Hiltonia Association.
Adults over 21 only, please.
Note: This event replaces the July First Friday Flamingo Social. The flamingos will land for the next Friday event in August!
hiltonia.association.president@gmail.com



Our annual Garden Party is a wonderful opportunity to come out and meet your neighbors, especially if you are new to the neighborhood! Come relax beside the pool and among the tall trees. Share in the bounty of wonderful food and friendship!!