

08033

HADDONFIELD

ISSUE 14 | 2026

DREAMS, HOT DOGS AND FAMILY

FROM CHILDHOOD DREAM
TO HADDONFIELD
HOT SPOT

**ART AND PLAY
MEET AT THE
CHILDREN'S
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Publisher's Note



Brittany Rought
PUBLISHER

There's always another story to uncover in Haddonfield, and this issue of *08033 Haddonfield* takes us behind the scenes with some of the people and local businesses that give our community its character.

Inside, we meet the brother and sister duo behind The Hidden Dog, Haddonfield's local hot dog restaurant, and learn more about the story, passion and family connection behind this hometown favorite (pg. 13). We also shine a spotlight on local cartoonist Ted Woods, exploring the creativity and personality behind his work (pg. 8). On page 18, we introduce you to Domonique Alesi of Book Restoration Bindery in our latest **ProFILE**.

And we're back in the barber chair with another installment of Behind the Clippers from our Expert Contributor, Tommy DeRitis of Tommy's Original (pg.16).

From family-run businesses and local artists to the experts who keep us looking our best, this issue is another celebration of the people who make Haddonfield unique.

Happy reading!

Brittany Rought

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PERSONAL CARE



Tommy DeRitis
Tommy's Original
Barbershop



Photo by Doug McConnell

Art and Play Meet at the Children's Sculpture Zoo

FROM A TOWERING GIRAFFE TO A PLAYFUL ELEPHANT, HADDONFIELD'S CHILDREN'S SCULPTURE ZOO OFFERS A HANDS-ON ART EXPERIENCE FOR VISITORS OF ALL AGES.

By **CHRISTINE BARCIA**

One might wonder how a sea lion, elephant and tiger, to name a few, wound up in a Haddonfield, New Jersey, zoo. Oh, did I mention that they were sculptures? At the Children's Sculpture Zoo, visitors can engage with seven unique animal sculptures, including a seal lion, rabbit, toad, giraffe, elephant, gorilla and tiger.

see ZOO page 6

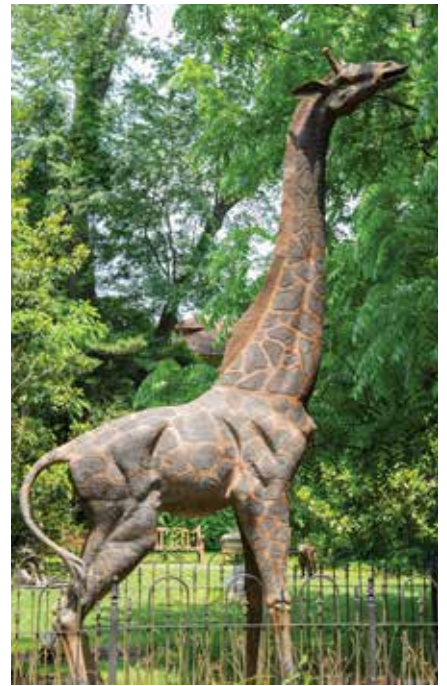


Photos By Alex McDonnell

Visitors to Haddonfield's Children's Sculpture Zoo can get up close with seven bronze animals—including Ndotto the elephant, Tumi the giraffe, Murph the gorilla and Tatem Tiger—while touching, climbing and interacting with the sculptures



Photos by Doug McConnell



ZOO

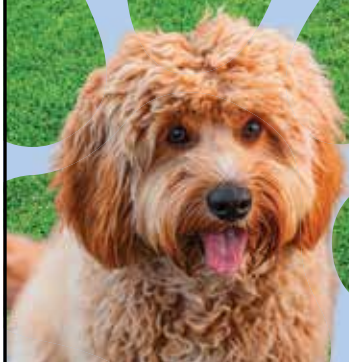
from page 5

Each bronze sculpture holds a special place in the landscaped park. The toad, with its big eyes and bumpy skin, looks ready to jump. One can almost hear the toad's long, musical sounds about to come out. The rabbit, with its hind legs up and ears upright, appears focused and alert, maybe from a sound coming from behind the bushes. The sea lion with its nose in the air and flappers flat on the ground has a curious expressions as it gazes upward in a snobby kind of way. Ever-so-tall, "Tumi" the giraffe stands tall at 15 feet with its strong and muscular body anchoring its long neck. Playful and adorable "Ndotto," the elephant, sits ready to engage, as its trunk is lifted high and its floppy ears hang low. "Murph," the gorilla, seated with its legs in the back and arms in the front, frowns as its big, hairy body showcases its strength. "Tatem Tiger" displays its power with its mouth open for all to see its fangs. This tiger appears to be on a hunt. Each sculpture offer an opportunity for children to use their imagination as they touch, climb, sit and experience the animals.

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Photo by Doug McConnell

The fun, however, doesn't stop there. The Children's Sculpture Zoo is also interactive. Visitors can call a phone number or use a QR code, both displayed on a sign at the zoo, and receive a phone call from one of the animals. "You can request a phone call from each animal and receive digital trading cards. It's an educational experience for the kid. I did research, created scripts, created voice-over recordings, sound effects, music and interesting facts about each animal. Then I created approximately 5-7 digital playing cards for the kids," Joseph Levine, President of the Haddonfield Civic Association and Vice President of the Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust (HOST), plus owner of Creative Communications and Graphics, Inc., stated. Levine, in addition to creating the logo and signage for the zoo, collaborated with the Haddonfield Public Library for this interactive component.

The sculptures made their home in Tatem Memorial Garden thanks to the efforts of the Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust. As HOST founder and chair, Stuart Harting, explained, back in 2018 he heard that Eric Berg, a Philadelphian recognized for his bronze animal sculptors, may be open to exhibiting some of his work. Harting and Berg met several times before Berg visited and grew fond of Tatem Park. After negotiations, the borough rented (and later purchased) the toad, rabbit and sea lion, and they became the first inhabitants

of the Children's Sculpture Zoo. That was in April 2019, and a little over a year later, the giraffe, "Tumi," also found a home in the sculpture zoo. "When sculptor John Giannotti was contacted by a local resident who wanted to sell a bronze giraffe in his yard before he sold his house, we were able to meet with him and arrange for the giraffe to come to the zoo," Harting said.

Other sculptures were added in the following years. In August 2021, the elephant, "Ndotto," became part of the zoo, and then in June 2023, the gorilla, "Murph," joined the others. The tiger, "Tatem Tiger," was the last to join in April 2024. Ndotto was created by Gillie and Marc Schattner, while the artists of the giraffe, gorilla and tiger are unknown. The seven sculptures were installed by Sikora Wells Appel, a Haddonfield landscape architecture firm led by Joseph Sikora, president of HOST's executive committee. "Strategically locating the pieces in the proper position and setting is important. The sculptures get a lot of love and use as can be seen in the hand polished bronze patina on Ndotto's trunk and Sea Lion's head," Sikora said.

In addition to visiting the zoo, children can also take part in its upkeep. The Children's Sculpture Zoo Zookeepers program is an opportunity for families to volunteer their time maintaining Tatem Memorial Garden. This summer program is open to all interested in preserving the beauty of the garden. —08033



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DRAWN TO IT

TED WOODS PAINTS US A PICTURE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE WORKING AS A FREELANCE ARTIST

By Olga Grudinina



Much like the superheroes he draws, Ted Woods also has an origin story. Granted it's not as dramatic as being bitten by a radioactive spider, but it's still the moment that set him on the path that he continues to walk to this day.

"At 14, my dad took me to the grocery store," Woods, now approaching 42, begins. Like most teens, rather than help with the shopping, Woods made a beeline for the magazines. "I flipped through a Green Lantern comic, and I just knew, that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

That day Woods left the supermarket with a comic and a dream. Since then, he has been building on that dream every day and is now working full time as a freelance artist.

Photos by: Yami Martinez

"I really loved being in an environment that gave you permission to take your art seriously. I try to give that to the students I teach," shared artist Ted Woods, who has turned a teenage love of comic books into a full-time creative career.

His work favors the ink wash technique, mixing ink with water to turn black into shades of grey, similar to watercolor. While largely black and white, his images contain a great deal of depth. "I'm a sucker for detail," Woods tells me. It shows. His reliance on traditional techniques, brushes and quills, adds to the tactile nature of his work.

More than two decades after the day at the supermarket, the universe rewarded his steadfast commitment to the craft with a full circle moment.

"At a convention in 2023, I ended up sitting right across from both the artist and writer of that auspicious Green Lantern comic. I got to tell them what their work meant to me, and they treated me as a fellow artist, not a fan. That was pretty special."

While Woods has fingers in many artistic pies, including working as a comic letterer, a storyboard artist and poster illustrator, conventions are his bread and butter. He attends 12 to 15 a year all across the country, interacting with fans, fellow artists and the occasional celebrity. Having just returned from GalaxyCon in Raleigh, Woods pro-



vides insight into the experience. "You're drawing for three days straight, it's busy but it's fun."

While custom commissions can take him weeks to complete, at conventions it's mostly on the spot requests, each piece taking him anywhere from 20 minutes to several hours. Common subjects include people's pets, their Dungeons & Dragons characters and drawing people as their favorite hero, villain or anyone they want to see them-

selves as.

Asked if any specific requests stand out, Woods answers with a smile. "A dad came by with his two teenage daughters and asked to be drawn as Daryl Dixon from The Walking Dead and for his two daughters to be depicted as zombies behind him," chuckling, Woods continues "the daughters were scowling and rolling their eyes, so it was perfect."

see ARTIST page 10

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ARTIST

from page 9

Passing the torch is another passion for Woods.

He started teaching his own curriculum in 2017, offering classes for children, preteens and teens. Unlike many, who “come from an education starting point” he puts art first and teaching second, meaning students walk away with not only valuable practical skills, but with a deeper appreciation for the practice of creativity as a whole. While the approach differs depending on the age group, the common thread is about creating a space where the kids are free to imagine and lean into their passions.

“I was the kid in class that drew all the time. I loved comic books and video games.” Becoming an artist was a natural fit, but he said it was his time at Savannah College of Art and Design that really validated his dream. “I really loved being in an environment that gave you permission to take your art seriously. I try to give that to the students I teach.”

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He teaches regularly at Main Line Art Center and has taught at Perkins Center for the Arts. He's also been in talks with Haddonfield Public Library about offering classes. Locals who have kids with a passion for drawing should make their interest known.

Between the teaching and the travelling there's also the passion projects.

A chance meeting with paranormal noir writer Stuart Jaffe last year in Raleigh led to them collaborating on "The Illustrated Marshall Drummond Case Files" for which Jaffe supplied the writing and Woods, the images, naturally.

He's also working on a graphic novel of his own. "YA focused, grounded in Greek Mythology" is all he can say for the moment.

But the project taking up most of his free time currently? His own Tarot deck. A re-interpretation of the original artwork through his own artistic lens. It's a labor of love, reimagining the age-old symbolism for our modern times. "It should be done by the end of next year... there's a lot of cards", says Woods. A reminder that art, done by hand, with skill and intention takes time. And so it should. —08033



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THE HIDDEN DOG:
FROM CHILDHOOD DREAM
TO HADDONFIELD HOT SPOT

Dreams, Hot Dogs, and Family

By Debra Wallace

When Matthew “Matt” McMahon and his older sister, Meghan Bing, were children, they would stay up past their bedtime talking excitedly about a dream: Someday, they would own a restaurant together.

More than 30 years later, that childhood dream has become a reality with **The Hidden Dog**, a cozy, family-owned shop on Kings Highway in downtown Haddonfield.

“My sister, Meghan, now 45, and I have been talking about this since we were kids,” says Matt, 42. “We would spend time talking about owning a small business together, especially a restaurant, what it would look like and the great pride we would have in creating it from scratch.”

Careers and family responsibilities eventually put the dream on the back burner. Then the pandemic gave Matt an unexpected opportunity to revisit it.

At the time, Matt was living in Florida, but moved back to Moorestown, New Jersey, to live with their parents, Mike and Maggie McMahon, while he was looking for a new place.

While Matt was back home, he began preparing his Italian grandmother’s family recipes—including lasagna and meatballs—for extended family and friends. The rave reviews convinced him he might be onto something.

see HIDDEN DOG page 14



Photos by: Doug McConnell

Siblings Meghan Bing and Matt McMahon turned a childhood dream into The Hidden Dog, a cozy downtown Haddonfield eatery serving creative hot dogs on traditional buns and fresh French baguettes



HIDDEN DOG

from page 13

Their parents remain actively involved in the business. Their mother is a former special education teacher, while their father is a retired family therapist and recycling expert. Meghan followed in her mother's footsteps and is a special education teacher at Delran Intermediate School, where she works with students in grades 3 through 5.

In addition to having their parents in their corner every step of the way, the co-owners credit Meghan's husband, Brian Bing, for his unwavering commitment to The Hidden Dog.

As part of the core family, she said, "We truly couldn't do this without him. He takes care of all of the kids (including Matt's son), so we can work crazy hours, and serves as a sounding board for the shop. He also helps set up, clean, and plan events. He is our biggest supporter!"

"Our parents gave us vital life lessons," Meghan says. "They dedicated their lives to helping others and making sure they felt comfortable."

Matt says his family and family friends have inspired them with their strong work ethic.

"All of them had a 'workhorse' attitude," he says. "They would say, 'Get it done. Always open, do it right, and be sure to take care of your customers.' We were taught from a young age to always work hard, be professional, and respectful."

Then came a trip to Paris that helped shape the restaurant they would eventually create.

A family friend spotted a vendor near the base of the Eiffel Tower selling a delicious hot dog nestled inside a fresh French baguette. The idea stuck with Matt.

Today, The Hidden Dog serves its 100 percent beef Sabrett hot dogs on fresh baguettes from a Philadelphia bakery, as well as traditional hot dog buns.

That discovery helped ignite a spark — and gave the enterprising siblings a clearer vision for their family business. With its warm, inviting atmosphere, creative menu and intimate setting, The Hidden Dog celebrated its first anniversary on Sunday, September 6.

The cozy basement shop seats just 12, but it packs plenty of personality into its

small footprint. "We went from talking about it, looking around for a space, and taking all of the steps to see if we could make this childhood dream come true," Matt says.

Meghan is the mother of a 6-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter, while Matt has an 8-year-old son. All three children are proud of what their family has built — and eager to pitch in.

A MENU WITH PERSONALITY

The Hidden Dog's menu is anything but ordinary.

There is **Mac's Dog**, Matt's favorite, topped with chili sauce, chopped onions, and spicy mustard; **The Philly Dilly**, featuring creamy house-made pickle dip and crushed potato chips; **Some Like It Hot**, with house-made hot pepper jelly and melted Brie; and **The Hot Mess**, combining chili sauce, pickle dip, and pepper jelly.

Customers can also create their own Show Dogs with free toppings including yellow mustard, spicy mustard, Grey Poupon, whole-grain Dijon, ketchup, relish, white onions, and jalapeños. Premium toppings include chili sauce, coleslaw, sauerkraut, and cheese sauce.

Other options include sausage with roasted peppers and onions and the Meatball Shorty served with homemade marinara sauce.

For diners 12 and under, the **Petite Dog Meal** includes a traditional hot dog with ketchup or mustard, chips, and a juice box.

Side dishes include potato chips, coleslaw, and a unique pickle dip, created by Matt and Meghan's father; while drinks range from sparkling and flat water to Mexican Coke, Jarritos, and canned sodas. Fishtown pickle jars are also available for purchase.

REGULARS AND NEWCOMERS LOVE THE DOGS

The secret ingredient at The Hidden Dog may be the family work ethic — and the pride Matt and Meghan take in becoming part of a close-knit community.

One of the biggest surprises during their first year, Meghan says, has been the number of returning customers. "We have so many regulars," she says. "We know their order, routine, and their fami-

lies. That is pretty cool!”

On a recent Saturday, a steady stream of new and returning customers made their way down the stairs to the sparkling-clean, well-appointed shop. Matt greeted each one warmly, often with the familiarity of an old friend. He proudly explained the menu and why the hot dogs are served on French baguettes.

First-time customers also receive a large chocolate chip or blueberry cookie from The Famous 4th Street Cookie Company.

Software engineer James Devin, 28, of Audubon, heard about The Hidden Dog from his minister and his minister’s wife, who raved about both the food and atmosphere.

“My girlfriend and I really enjoy the food, and the people who work here are extremely nice,” he says. “Our favorites are the Some Like It Hot and The Philly Dilly. It’s a nice change from other food shops.”

Devin returned with his friend Kieran so they could experience the restaurant together.

New customer Gabby Hayden, a financial services operator who has lived in Haddonfield for six years, was equally impressed after ordering The Hot Mess.

“I never had a hot dog like this before,” she says. “It has the perfect hint of spice. I love the downtown and how walkable everything is. This is a great addition to the Boro of Haddonfield.”

WHY PICK HADDONFIELD?

After an exhausting yet invigorating first year, Meghan says she has learned plenty about running a small business.

“You have to remain flexible and pivot when you need to change,” she says. “We are still learning. You are going to have all of these wonderful ideas. Some will work, and some won’t happen the way you envision.”

Before settling on a location, Matt and his parents explored neighboring New Jersey towns at different times of the day, paying close attention to foot traffic and the character of each business district.

Haddonfield and its bustling downtown definitely stood out. “On a rainy, gloomy Tuesday in the middle of fall, downtown Haddonfield was busy,” Matt says. “It was important to us that we had foot traffic.”

Just as important was finding a community that valued hospitality and connection — the same qualities the siblings planned to build into The Hidden Dog from day one.

The shop welcomes small birthday parties and other special events, and the local business community has embraced the newcomers.

“The number of events the town has and how they have embraced us has been

truly wonderful,” Meghan says. “We feel incredibly lucky!”

For Matt and Meghan, the best part may be watching a dream they imagined as kids become a place where families, friends, and neighbors gather.

More than three decades after those late-night childhood conversations, The Hidden Dog is proof that sometimes the best dreams are worth waiting for! —08033

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BEHIND THE CLIPPERS



By **Tommy DeRitis**
Tommy's Original Barbershop
Expert Contributor

THE BLUEPRINT OF A MASTER BARBER: THE STORY AND CRAFT OF NICKY DEBONAIRE

There is a distinct kind of grit that comes from growing up with deep roots in South Philadelphia, shaped by heritage, hard work, and a relentless commitment to doing things the right way. For master barber Nick DeRose—known professionally as Nicky Debonaire—that foundation has guided every single chapter of his life, from the early days in the city to building a staple of the South Jersey grooming community.

With over a decade of hands-on industry experience, a pristine technical education, and a fiercely loyal passion for his hometown sports teams, Nick's journey is a testament to what happens when you combine an old-school work ethic with an uncompromising vision.

ROOTS, HERITAGE, AND THE PHILLY SPIRIT.

To understand Nick, you have to understand where he comes from. Originally hailing from South Philadelphia before moving across the river to New Jersey, Nick's background is shaped by a proud, 100% Italian upbringing. Coming from a 100% Italian family instilled values that cannot be taught in a classroom: an unwavering sense of loyalty, a relentless drive, and an intense pride in whatever craft or profession you choose to pursue.

Those roots carried over seamlessly into his lifelong allegiance to Philadelphia sports. Nick is a true "4-for-4" guy through and through—bleeding green for the Eagles, living and dying with the Phillies, tracking every shift of the Flyers, and locked into Sixers basketball. Whether the seasons bring championship runs or heartbreaking finishes, that unwavering loyalty defines how he approaches life, relationships, and his career: you stick by your team, and you show up every single day.

After moving from South Philly to New Jersey, Nick attended and graduated from Washington Township High School, firmly planting his flag in South Jersey and building a life in the community he would eventually serve professionally.

FINDING THE CALLING: THE ROAD TO CCTS.

While many people spend years searching for their true path, Nick knew early on exactly what he wanted out of life. The motivation to get into barbering stemmed from a singular, ambitious goal: he didn't just want to cut hair—he wanted to open his own barbershop someday. He wanted a place of his own where quality, community, and classic craftsmanship took center stage.

That journey officially kicked off in 2013 when Nick enrolled at Camden County Technical School (CCTS) in Sicklerville,

New Jersey. Stepping into CCTS marked the beginning of a lifelong devotion to the mechanics, artistry, and tradition of men's grooming. He soaked up every lesson, mastering the fundamentals of traditional scissor work, precision fading, razor-sharp line-ups, and the timeless atmosphere of a classic barbershop. That technical foundation gave him the edge needed to navigate an ever-changing industry where trends come and go, but true skill remains timeless.

Having a dream is one thing; having the grit to execute it is entirely another. Nick didn't just talk about opening a shop—he made it happen.

In July of 2016, he turned his vision into reality by founding Debonaire Barber Shop in Deptford, New Jersey. For nearly a decade, the shop served as more than just a place to get a haircut; it was a cornerstone of the community. Serving clients across Gloucester and Camden counties, Nick built a thriving business centered on top-tier craftsmanship, genuine conversation, and absolute consistency.

Running a successful independent barbershop for ten years requires immense sacrifice, leadership, and daily resilience. Nick poured his heart into Debonaire Barber Shop, creating a culture of excellence behind the station that earned the trust of countless clients who became lifelong friends. When that chapter officially came to a close in February of 2026, it marked the end of a remarkable storefront era, but it left behind an undeniable legacy in the South Jersey.



Nicky is bringing his barbering skills to a new home, now working alongside the talented crew at Tommy's Original Barber Shop in Haddonfield.

With Nicky now behind the chair at Tommy's, clients have another reason to stop in, sit back, and experience the craftsmanship that has become a hallmark of the shop. —08033






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By Katrina Janco



Photos submitted by Domonique Alesi.

"There's something so special about being able to put a dear memory back together, whether it was their mom's cookbook or the family Bible," explained Domonique Alesi, a bookbinder and conservator, who opened Book Restoration Bindery in downtown Haddonfield. Alesi has temporarily closed the store while she finishes her graduate studies in England.

Domonique Alesi has been an artist for her entire life, using various mediums to express herself, whether it be painting, drawing, music or paper sculptures that she later showcases and sells at galleries and museums. After dabbling in bookbinding as a child and later studying the craft, Alesi started Book Restoration Bindery, which had a storefront in downtown Haddonfield. The store is temporarily closed as she finishes her graduate studies.

I discovered bookbinding when I was 12 after reading *Inkheart*, a young adult fantasy novel where the protagonist's father is a bookbinder. I started tearing books apart, turning paperbacks into hard covers with any materials I had. The hobby faded due to the lack of opportunities to foster and nurture my interest, which is a relatively new problem for a craft that has existed for millennia and only became mechanized during the Industrial Revolution.



My family read books, but book collecting was not a part of our dynamic. We went to the library, we got our books, we read them and then we returned them. I still loved books and wanted to be a part of the book-making process, so I studied illustration at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and took introductory bookbinding classes. I also worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art when I met someone who was getting a book conserved by a local bookbinder, David Donahue. I reached out to David and asked if I could do an apprenticeship. He initially refused because he wanted to retire, but I did not take no for an answer. If I did, I may have never become a bookbinder.

My work primarily consists of restoring and conserving books. While the concepts are often used interchangeably, in my field they mean very different things. For example, when my clients bring me books with sentimental value that have fallen apart and want me to refurbish them, that is restoration. Meanwhile, conservation is protecting what already exists. It's a much more sterile process. In my studio I clear all the surfaces and put down Bondina, a non-woven polyester material. It helps to ensure I am not introducing any new materials or impurities, and that I don't otherwise damage or weaken the original object. In addition, I bind and rebind books that are completely damaged. One time I had a client who wanted a special copy of his brother-in-law's self-published book. He gave me a flash drive
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BINDERY

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with the PDF of the manuscript, which I took to a printer and had it formatted to sew and print. Then I made the book from start to finish, giving it a fine binding in full leather, with the design featured in the book translated into leather inlays and gold tooling. He said it was the best Christmas gift he'd ever given.

My typical work day has changed since I began my bookbinding journey. After I apprenticed with David for a year, I continued to train while also helping him with tasks for private clients. Eventually I worked as a freelancer and had my own clients, which snowballed into a business. At that point, I paid David rent for my bench in his studio.

I moved to Collingswood in the fall of 2020 in search of a quieter life that was close to my clients in Philadelphia. Meeting clients who preferred not having to cross the Delaware River was encouraging, and made me realize that I could operate a business in South Jersey. Just months later I was searching for a larger space to house a shop. Bookbinders have a lot of equipment, from large guillotines for cutting stacks of paper to workspace and work benches. It was only by happenstance that I found a location in Kings Court in Haddonfield.

I would have been happy having a shop in either town. Both have strong business communities with lots of great events and marketing, along with good foot traffic. Walking down Haddon Avenue in Collingswood or Kings Highway in Haddonfield is special and adds to the overall experience of visiting my shop. That was very important to me, as I wanted someone to walk into my shop and feel the same magic and anticipation when starting a new book. I also wanted visitors to see the profession in action. When I was initially considering this profession, I didn't know what I was looking at.

I began the process of opening my bookbinding business in Haddonfield in November 2021 and had a ribbon cutting in March 2022. Once I was in Haddonfield, I would try to line up similar work for the week to ensure efficient procurement. I spent a lot of time on scheduling and other backend work, which sometimes gets overlooked when you're doing something creative. Eventually, when I had an employee I would check in with them. I also trained three people.

My favorite aspects of the profession include the actual process of bookbinding and meeting my clients. There's something so special about being able to put a dear memory back together, whether it was their mom's cookbook or the family Bible. A lot of times clients come to us either because it's been loved too much or it was neglected. Either way, the client is trusting you with something very precious.

One of the most challenging parts of the profession is its physical toll. Finding individuals who are able or willing to do the work is also difficult. On a more philosophical level, the ongoing discussions surrounding conservation and meeting industry standards requires ongoing training and learning. A few years into this journey, I had momentum, I loved my work, and I loved my clients. But I also began hitting walls I couldn't overcome. I was tutored over Zoom by Samuel Feinstein in Chicago, but virtual learning is a very difficult way to learn a craft. I wanted to work with different materials, such as parchment. You can't find it in America, since the material became largely irrelevant following the introduction of the mechanized printing press in the late 15th century in Europe. Meanwhile in England, where I now live, there's a nearby bookshop with parchment documents I can practice on. Temporarily closing my business in order to attend graduate school thousands of miles away was a really difficult decision, but I think I made the right choice.

Last September, I began a master's program at West Dean College in conservation studies with a specialization in books and library materials. It's been a wonderful experience. This past spring, I graduated with distinction, but I still have to write my master's dissertation. I haven't finalized a topic yet, but lately I have been really fascinated by wire stitch books, which were mass-produced books bound by staples rather than stitches. After I finish my dissertation next year, I don't have immediate plans. However, someday I hope to teach someone who is as passionate as I was all I know about the craft, and they won't have to talk to someone across the country or fly across an ocean to learn. —08033

08033





Photo by Aria Anderson

The Historical Society of Haddonfield's haunted tours will return on Fridays and Saturdays in October between October 9 and 24

It's all in the details. When it comes to your social calendar, change is ... not always good. But sometimes, it's inevitable. Check each organization's website for updated event information.

AT THE HADDONFIELD LIBRARY

For updates and additional events, please visit www.haddonfieldlibrary.org

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

2 p.m.-3 p.m. **Virtual: Science Write David Epstein.** Bestselling author David Epstein will discuss his latest book, *Inside the Box*, during a virtual event exploring how constraints and limitations can inspire creativity, problem-solving and peak performance. Attendees will learn science-backed strategies they can apply to their careers and personal lives, with those watching live also having a chance to win a copy of the book.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. **Shhh... Is That a Ghost?** A local paranormal investigation group will share spooky stories, explain its ghost-hunting tools and techniques, and reveal what happened during its first investigation of the library after dark. Guests are invited to come curious—or skeptical—and discover whether investigators uncovered any unexplained activity or evidence that the library might be haunted.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:45 a.m.-10:15 a.m. **Halloween Dance**

Party. Wear a favorite Halloween outfit or costume and dance the morning away with props and fun songs!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. **Traveling Storytime: Sculpture Zoo.** Bring your picnic blanket and join Ms. Katrina to enjoy stories, songs & a take home craft around Haddonfield. This event is weather-dependent.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

7 p.m.-8 p.m. **Virtual: YA Storytelling with Cherie Dimaline.** Acclaimed Métis author Cherie Dimaline will join a virtual conversation about her literary career and haunting young adult novel, *Funeral Songs for Dying Girls*, a story exploring grief, identity, survival and unexpected connections. The discussion will also highlight Dimaline's other works, including *The Marrow Thieves*, *Hunting by Stars*, *Empire of Wild and VenCo*.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

2 p.m.-3 p.m. **Preserving Black Haddonfield History: Fall Harvest Gospel Concert Featuring the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Mass Choir.** Bring your chairs or blankets and join us on the library lawn for this enriching cultural event, featuring the soul-stirring gospel choir of Haddonfield's Mt. Olivet Baptist Church!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. **Library Book Club Discussion.** Members will be discussing *Piranesi* by Susanna Clarke. If you wish to attend

from home, the zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/HPLbookgroup>. For more information about club membership, or book copies please contact: kpolt@haddonfieldlibrary.org

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

8 a.m. **Library Board of Trustees Meeting.** This meeting will be held at the Haddonfield Library.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31

9:30 a.m.-10 a.m. **Trick or Treating Storytime.** Children of all ages are invited to a Halloween-themed story time featuring festive stories, songs and a take-home craft. Kids are encouraged to wear costumes and bring a bag or bucket for trick-or-treating after story time; registration is required for children only.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Diwali Door Hanger: Take Home Craft.** Recommended for ages 3 and up. While supplies last.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 8

Illuminating Stories Reading Challenge. The Diwali Festival of Lights Reading Challenge invites kids, teens and adults to explore Indian culture through books, stories, videos and hands-on activities like making rangoli, diyas and traditional sweets. Participants can celebrate Diwali while learning about the traditions and meaning behind the festival's message of light triumphing over darkness.

IN THE COMMUNITY

FRIDAYS OCTOBER 9, 16, AND 23 AND SATURDAYS OCTOBER 10, 17 AND 24

Starting at 7 p.m. **Haunted Haddonfield Walking Tours.** The Historical Society of Haddonfield's haunted tours bring the stories from Bill Meehan's *Haunted Haddonfield* books to life, continuing his popular tradition with the blessing of his family following his death in 2021. Tours meet at Greenfield Hall, with tickets available at www.haddonfieldhistory.org or through the office; comfortable shoes and flashlights are recommended.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

2 p.m.-5 p.m. **Pours for a Purpose.** The Haddon Fortnightly will host a seasonal wine-tasting event, featuring wine tastings, savory bites and a basket raffle. The \$50-per-person event will benefit Peaceful Tomorrows, which serves children and families

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HAPPENINGS

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affected by domestic and family violence, while a portion of proceeds will also support restoration of The Haddon Fortnightly's historic clubhouse.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. **Historic Preservation Commission Meeting.** This meeting will be held in the auditorium of Borough Hall.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

6:30 p.m. **Haddonfield Public Schools Board of Education Work Session.** This meeting will be held in the Haddonfield Memorial High School Library.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Flea Market Treasures.** The Haddon Fortnightly will host its sale, featuring antiques, collectibles, plants, jewelry, clothing, baked goods, holiday items, electronics, furniture and more. Donations will be accepted Oct. 15 and 16, with proceeds benefiting the historic Haddon Fortnightly building.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. **HMHS Class of 1976 Reunion.** Haddonfield Memorial High School's Class of 1976 will celebrate its 50th reunion on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Tavistock Country Club. The reunion weekend will also include a tour of HMHS with faculty and current students earlier that day from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m.; reunion tickets are \$76 per person. More information can be found at www.hmhsclassof76reunion.com

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

9:15 a.m. **Senior Citizens Commission Meeting.** This meeting will be held at the Mabel Kay Senior Center.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

8 a.m. **Shade Tree Commission Meeting.** This meeting will be held in Room 102 at Borough Hall.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

7 p.m. **Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting.** This meeting will be held in the auditorium of Borough Hall.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

7 p.m. **Recreation Commission Meeting.** This meeting will be held in Room 102 of Borough Hall.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

7 p.m. **Municipal Alliance Committee Meeting.** This meeting will be held in Room 102 of Borough Hall.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

4 p.m.-9 p.m. **Halloween Night Market.** The Haddonfield Halloween Night Market: Part V returns, transforming Kings Highway and Kings Court into a spooky celebration with more than 60 vendors and artists, live music, a DJ and Halloween entertainment. Visitors of all ages can shop for oddities, art, clothing and other unique finds while enjoying an immersive evening of costumes, creativity and seasonal fun in historic Downtown Haddonfield.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

7:30 p.m. **Commissioner Meeting.** This meeting will be held in the auditorium of Borough Hall. Community members can join virtually through Zoom.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27

7 p.m. **Environmental Commission Meeting.** This meeting will be held in Room 102 of Borough Hall.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29

6:30 p.m. **Haddonfield Public Schools Board of Education Meeting.** This meeting will be held in the Haddonfield Memorial High School Library.



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